

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



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[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, FIVEPENCE.]

THE SWISS DIFFICULTY.

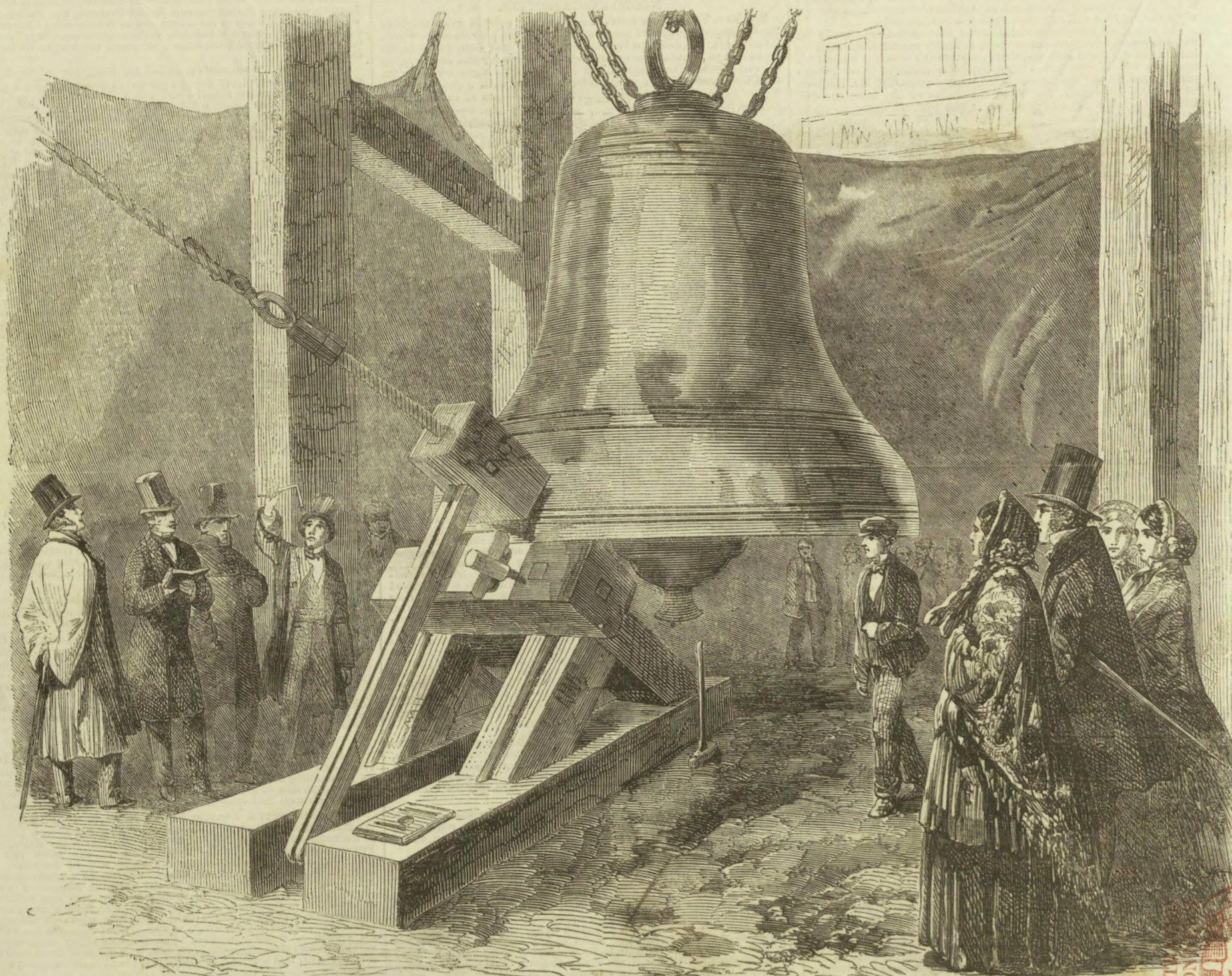
THE quarrel with Switzerland, which has been raised by the King of Prussia is consequence of the abortive insurrection of his hot-headed friends in the canton of Neuchâtel, presents no difficulty that any man of common sense and honesty could not equitably settle in five minutes. But the obstinacy of the King of Prussia and the stupidity of the Emperor of the French—or of those persons who make use of the *Moniteur* in his name—bid fair to surround this simple question with endless exasperation and entanglements. The ultimate result may be the disturbance of the peace of Europe. The present result is a state of uncertainty and disquiet, and preparations for war that are almost as costly as war itself.

The personal rights claimed by the King of Prussia over the canton of Neuchâtel are not in dispute. The political rights of his Majesty, shadowy in the extreme, might, after proper appraisal, be purchased from him by Switzerland without derogation of dignity. To the thinking of many they would be amply paid for by the shadow of a five-franc piece. But whatever their worth—and no one, however much inclined to take the part of the King of Prussia, values them at more than a merely nominal sum—

it is disgraceful and monstrous that a Sovereign who, during the war against Russia, would not stir a finger in defence of a cause which he admitted to be rightful, should, for a trumpety point of supposed self-interest on which the verdict of the world is against him, raise armies, put them in motion, and threaten a general disruption of Europe. When there was a great and a just war to be fought out, the King of Prussia was the "Angel of Peace." When peace is declared, and a question arises in which his own self-love is involved, the Angel of Peace is transformed into the Demon of Discord; and, for the paltry objects he expects to gain in a small corner of a small Republic, becomes as fierce, as reckless, and as insatiable as Nicholas was in pursuit of the prize of Constantinople. Frederick William will listen to no terms of compromise, unless Switzerland will consent to abandon the trial of Count Pourtales, and the other conspirators who, in his interest, if not at his instigation, took up arms, committed treason against the Republic, and murdered unoffending Swiss citizens. Switzerland cannot yield upon this point without a sacrifice of her independence and dignity. The point is vital. To abdicate her function as judge in the case of rebels against her authority would be to commit political suicide. The

weaker she is in men and in money the more jealously she ought to maintain her indefeasible rights. It is by her legality, far more than by her strength, that she exists in Europe, and that her independence is guaranteed to her by the consent, and by the express stipulation and solemn compact, of the Powers.

But it is the conduct of France far more than that of Prussia which has complicated the question. Prussia, unaided and uncounselled, would not have dared, however much she might have talked and intrigued against Switzerland, to have attacked her with an army. But, supported by France, there is no knowing what folly or wickedness the King might not commit in pursuit of his visionary claims on Neuchâtel. It is, therefore, to be hoped that the French Emperor will see the error which he has either committed in his own person or allowed others to commit in his name, and, without favour or prejudice, lend himself to the settlement of the dispute. If it had not been for the independence of Switzerland, which Switzerland knew how to maintain, amid difficulties quite as great as those which now menace her, the mighty Emperor of the French might never have become an Emperor, or even a President, or anything but an exile. He cannot put his hand upon his heart, if he still have one, and deny



EXPERIMENT WITH THE HAMMER UPON THE GREAT BELL FOR THE WESTMINSTER CLOCK.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



that but for the generous aid which Switzerland afforded him in the day of his adversity he might perhaps have ended his troubled career on that public place where other conspirators against strong and established Governments have so often displayed their heroism, or enticed themselves to be enrolled among the martyrs of liberty. If any one owe Switzerland a debt of gratitude it is Napoleon III.; but, as the gratitude of Princes is even more phantasmal and shadowy than the rights of Prussia over Neuchâtel, it is to the good offices of Great Britain rather than to those of France that Switzerland and Europe will look to muzzle the warlike Sovereign of Berlin, and bind him over to keep the peace, of which he was once, and very lately, so doatingly enamoured. We do not imagine that the personal relations already established, and about to be still more intimately cemented, between the Royal families of Windsor and Potsdam will form any impediment to the action of the British Government in this matter. It was the Premier of England who once insisted—when he was not a Premier—that nations had no cousins; and he is not a likely person to forget at the present time that cousins are not the only relatives of which nations are happily unconscious; that they neither marry nor are given in marriage; and that their only durable or valid alliances are those founded upon political necessities. The King of Prussia is moving his armies towards the Swiss frontiers, and is said to have secured the consent of the petty Sovereigns of Bavaria and Baden to a military passage through their territories. If so, Great Britain has only to declare such an attack upon Switzerland to be a *casus belli*, and the King of Prussia will become prudent and peaceable. In such a declaration, if rendered necessary, France, notwithstanding the opinion expressed in the *Moniteur*, would be certain to join. The *Moniteur* may detest freedom in Belgium, and coerce the Belgian press; it may detest freedom in England, and vainly threaten, because it cannot coerce, the English press; and it may also detest freedom in Switzerland and denounce the jealous care of the Swiss to guard inviolate the precious heirloom of their independence; but, notwithstanding all these things, the Emperor of the French will not allow the outbreak of a new war in Europe, to please the morbid vanity or exaggerated susceptibility of the King of Prussia, or any other potentate. Ugly, therefore, as it looks, we suspect that means will be found to put out the fire which has been kindled at Berlin, and that the Swiss difficulty will be allowed to blow over.

EXPERIMENT UPON THE GREAT BELL OF THE NEW PALACE AT WESTMINSTER.

EVERY stage of the manufacture and erection of this magnificent Bell for the Clock of the new Houses of Parliament is replete with interest. Indeed, from the extraordinary attention paid to the fabrication of the Bell, and its involving several new theoretical views, it may be doubted whether, within memory, experimental science has been brought to bear to a like extent upon this class of manufacture.

In order fully to understand the subject of the Illustration upon the preceding page, it may be as well to explain that the Bell, when placed in the Clock Tower, will be struck at each hour by means of a hammer; while the quarters will be struck upon four smaller bells.

The scene we have represented is the first experiment made (on Saturday week) to determine the proportionate weight of the striking hammer of the large Bell, and the space through which it should fall upon the bow of the Bell. The trial was made in New Palace-yard, at the foot of the tower, and here were assembled Mr. Denison, who designed the Bell; Mr. Dent, the maker of the Bell; and Mr. Quarm, the able clerk of the new Palace works. There were also present a few privileged spectators. To make the experiment the ponderous hammer, of nearly, or quite, a half ton weight, was placed on a stout framework of wood, at an inclination of about forty-five degrees, and slightly touching the Bell; the hammer was then raised from this position some inches, at various times, by means of a crab, which was then thrown out of gear, and the massive hammer-head fell by its own weight, striking the Bell with great precision, and bringing out the sound to its fullest extent. We believe the experiment to have been quite satisfactory. The raising of this Bell will be the next stage for our Illustration; and when the whole work is accomplished we trust it will redound to the credit of those several gentlemen into whose hands this herculean labour has fallen.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

THE PARIS CONFERENCES.

The latest rumour current in Paris regarding the Conferences is that no meeting of the Plenipotentiaries will take place till after New Year's Day, or only a meeting for preliminary formalities. It is also stated confidently that the Plenipotentiaries will meet with settled instructions, and that the only points for discussion will be the Belgrad and the Isle of Serpents questions. The sittings of the Conference will very probably not exceed two in number.

PRUSSIA AND SWITZERLAND.

Prussia and Switzerland are making active preparations for war. The Prussian army to be put in movement, it is said, on the 2nd of January, consists of upwards of 140,000 men; about half the regular army of that kingdom. The Government has issued orders to all military officials to hold themselves ready for a mobilisation, the definite order for which they may expect to receive immediately after the commencement of the new year. Within a fortnight after the publication of the definite order, the troops must all be on the march. Each of the eight provinces is to contribute a division with its full contingent of landwehr, 16,000 strong; making, together with a division of the Guards, a total of 144,000 men to be sent to the south as a demonstration against Switzerland. They will probably first be thrown into the Prussian Principality of Hohenzollern, hard on the Swiss confines, whether the Prussian Government has an *Etappe-Strasse*, or military right of way, through the intervening German States. Count Gröben is appointed Commander-in-Chief; the commanders of the corps are Generals Werder, Wussow, Bonin, and Schack. The Prince of Hohenzollern will command the Division of Reserve. The Division of the Guards of the 1st corps is to be under the orders of Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia.

In Switzerland, also, there is no lack of determination to stand up for their rights. At an extraordinary sitting held on Sunday last the Federal Council decided on calling out immediately the staffs of four new divisions: the second, commander-in-chief, F. Veillon; the fourth, commander-in-chief, Kutz; the sixth, commander-in-chief, Egloff; the eighth, commander-in-chief, Zimmeoli. Each staff is immediately to repair to its own head-quarters, and there await the orders that may subsequently be issued. The head-quarters of the third and fifth divisions, already called out, are—the former at Lientall, the capital of the canton of Basle; and the latter at Frauenfeld, the capital of Thurgovia.

The greatest emulation prevails amongst all the cantons in the exertions which they make to comply with the requirements of the circular issued by the Federal Government with regard to the completion of the equipments and numbers of the troops. The Government of Argovia has granted an extraordinary credit to the board of military administration. The canton of Berne has allowed 180,000 francs for the purchase of great-coats for the soldiers. The federal board of military administration made some weeks ago a contract with an Alsatian house for the delivery of 20,000 rations of bread. It is evident that Switzerland will not be caught unprovided. At Zurich 150 students of the University and the Federal Polytechnic School have petitioned as a favour that they may be organised into an academic legion.

The Paris Correspondent of the *Morning Post*, writing on Tuesday evening, says:—

I believe the *Morning Post* will be able to announce in a few days that the Government of the Emperor of the French, whilst acknowledging the sovereign rights of Prussia to Neuchâtel, protests against an armed intervention in Switzerland. The note in the *Moniteur*, which has caused so much sensation throughout Europe, ought to have been registered in the Court journal of the Tuileries, and not given to the world as a grave political document. I think I may now assure you that the Emperor will not allow Switzerland to be invaded. There is the strongest feeling in the French army about the Swiss question, and nothing would be more unpopular in France than if the Government were to countenance the invasion of Switzerland. At a garrison town near Paris the other day, all the officers after dinner drank "to the freedom and independence of Switzerland."

THE WAR WITH PERSIA.

The next Overland Mail will, no doubt, bring some news from the Persian Gulf regarding the expedition sent from Bombay. Meanwhile we have all manner of rumours as to what is going on in Persia and the neighbouring Russian provinces.

A Polish correspondent of the *Augsburg Gazette* writes that the Russians have long been preparing for the outbreak of war between England and Persia. The garrison of Astrakhan has been strengthened, and the Cossacks in the neighbourhood of that city have received a new commander in the person of Lieutenant-General Krassnik; but the reports relative to the concentration of troops, which are to be conveyed by the flotilla of the Caspian Sea to Astrabad, "are totally unfounded." The Orenburg corps, of which so much has recently been said, consists of the 23rd infantry division, and of the Orenburg battalions of the line, but it is too weak to be sent on an expedition to Persia. The distance is so enormous that there can be no question of a reinforcement being sent from Southern Russia. The principal force of Russia in Asia is in the Caucasus and on the Araxes, and, if her troops should enter Persia, it would probably be by way of the province of Azerbaijan.

A private letter from Astrakhan of the 15th of November, published in the *Moniteur de la Flotte*, gives some details relative to the situation of the Russian forces on the Caspian Sea. No portion of the Russian army had entered the Persian territory, nor was war considered imminent. A commission, composed of a Colonel of the staff, of a Lieutenant-Colonel of Engineers, and of a superior officer of infantry, had been sent from the Russian head-quarters to visit Mazanderan, a province of Persia on the coast of the Caspian Sea, to examine passages and prepare maps. It appears that in case of hostilities between Great Britain and Persia, the province of Mazanderan would afford an important strategical position. Troops might be concentrated at Balfrouh, the principal town of the province, at Meshedi-Sar, Astrabad, Aschraf, and Feshah-Abad. Independently of these military dispositions, the defile of the Caspian Gates and that of Komis, might be effectually occupied. It is through those points that the centre of the kingdom of Persia may be reached. The concentration in Mazanderan of the Russian army in the provinces of the Caspian Sea, now consisting of 50,000 men, would, it is said, render the operations of the British army extremely difficult, as it would be constantly menaced in its flank or its rear by the army in Mazanderan. The writer of this letter believes that for these reasons the differences between Great Britain and Persia will be settled amicably.

According to the Constantinople correspondent of the *Trieste Zeitung*, the demands made by England on Persia are:—1. Revision of the treaties between the two Powers. 2. Evacuation of Herat. 3. Permission to establish "factories" in the Persian Gulf. 4. Railroad concessions to English companies. The Imam of Muscat, who is with England, refuses to pay any more tribute to Persia.

A letter from Erzeroum, dated November 18, states that an extraordinary courier from Persia had brought the news of Herat having fallen on the 25th October into the hands of the Persian army after a very sanguinary conflict. The news appears likely to be true, but it is the cholera and hunger which have obliged the garrison of Herat to surrender, and not the valour of their assailants.

NEGRO INSURRECTION.

The New York papers received by last mail contain some startling intelligence of a projected insurrection among the negroes of the South. Twenty-four muskets and two kegs of powder had been found in the possession of some slaves at Columbia, Tennessee; and at Perry, in the same State, fifteen negroes had been killed by their owners. On the Cumberland River a white man, disguised as a negro, had been flogged to death. The following further particulars of the affair are gleaned from various papers:—

(From the *Philadelphia North American*.)

LOUISVILLE, Saturday, Dec. 6.—Evening.—A report has reached the city that the negroes in Southern Kentucky had broken out in rebellion, and that a general insurrection was feared. They had commenced an attack upon the ironworks, and vigilance committees had been formed in Lafayette and Hopkinsville, for the purpose of taking prompt action in the matter.

(From the *Franklin (La.) Journal*, Nov. 27.)

The negroes arraigned in the parish of St. Martin, supposed to have been connected with an insurrectionary plot in that parish, have all been acquitted, except a free boy who is now in jail. There were several white men whom it was supposed had acted in concert with them, for whom a warrant was issued; and the Deputy Sheriff of the parish came to this place on Saturday evening last, and, accompanied by a posse, went in search of the fugitives, and below here, nearly opposite Pattersonville, took three of them from a flat-boat, on their way, we understand, to the terminus of the railroad. It is supposed that one of the parties arrested (whose name we do not remember) occupied a very conspicuous place in the movement of insurrection, having furnished the negroes with ammunition and arms.

(From the *Missouri Democrat*, Dec. 4.)

For the past month the journals from different Southern States have been filled with numberless alarms respecting contemplated risings of the negro population. In Tennessee, in Missouri, in Virginia, and in Alabama, so imminent has been deemed the danger that the most severe measures have been adopted to prevent their congregating or visiting after night, to suppress their customary attendance at neighbourhood preachings, and to keep a vigilant watch upon all their movements, by an efficient patrolling system. This is assuredly a most lamentable condition for the Slave States, for nothing causes such terror upon the plantations as the bare suspicion of one of these insurrections. In calling attention to the frequency and increase of the reported plots on the part of the slave population within the past year, we design not so much to speak of the measures which have been found necessary for their repression, as to point to one great cause which has more than all else encouraged and instigated them; and that is the baneful agitation of this slavery question by every demagogue in the Slave States who wishes to acquire transient notoriety. In Missouri, especially, have we felt the effects of this slavery agitation and slavery extension policy upon the part of the Nullification faction, who have sought to float into power and office by continually exciting the passions of men, and provoking discussion in regard to this theme; and we venture to assert that, in consequence thereof, more slaves have been induced to escape from their masters, more desperate resolutions have been put into their heads, and more general insecurity entailed upon that species of property within the past year than during any five years preceding. Slaveholders are but now beginning to reap baneful consequences of the audience which has been granted of late to those debased politicians, whose only stock in trade was slavery propagandism. The ferment excited in the minds of the masters soon extended itself to the slaves—for all who have lived in slaveholding communities well know how eagerly every scrap of parlour conversation, every excited harangue on the stump, or loud-toned dispute in the streets, is treasured up by the negro, and made the burden of kitchen comment during the hours of the night.

DEATH OF THE REV. DR. HARRIS.—We regret to have to announce the death of the Rev. Dr. Harris, Principal of the New College, St. John's Wood, which took place at half-past five on Sunday evening. The author of "Mammon," the "Great Commission," &c., occupied a high place in the Congregational body, and his loss will be deeply felt throughout the Dissenting world.

DEATH OF DR. PARIS.—The death of this excellent and distinguished man took place on Wednesday morning at his residence in Dover-street. He was born at Cambridge on the 7th of August, in the year 1785.

THE GREAT NORTHERN FRAUDS.—On Wednesday last Leopold Redpath, W. C. C. Kent, and Thomas Hodgden—also a clerk, in the registration department of the Great Northern Railway, who was apprehended and brought before Mr. Tyrwhitt after the examination and remand of Redpath and Kent on Friday last—were placed at the bar before Mr. Tyrwhitt, for further examination on the various charges of fraud and forgery preferred against them; Hodgden being charged as an attesting witness to a forged transfer of £1000 4s per cent Stock of the Great Northern Railway from Redpath to Mr. Stephen Geo. Hammond. After an examination, which lasted six hours, Redpath and Kent were fully committed for trial, and Hodgden was admitted to bail.

THE Sugar Duties are to be reduced in April. Last year they produced £5,227,000.

COUNTRY NEWS.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE HIGHFIELD HOUSE OBSERVATORY, NEAR NOTTINGHAM, FOR THE WEEK ENDING DEC. 23, 1856.

Month and Day.	Corrected Reading of Barometer, at 9 A.M. 181 feet above sea level.	Thermometer.		Mean Temperature of the Day.	Rain in Inches.	Mean Temperature of Wet Bulb.		Amount of Evaporation.		Mean Amount of Cloud.	
		Highest Reading.	Lowest Reading.			In the Day.	In the Night.	In the Day.	In the Night.	In the Day.	In the Night.
Dec. 17	30.248	43.0	30.8	38.7	0.000	38.4	37.6	0	1	9.1	9.1
" 18	29.703	49.0	38.2	43.4	0.070	41.3	41.4	2	0	9.5	9.5
" 19	30.272	46.2	29.5	38.4	0.000	37.3	36.8	1	1	3.5	3.5
" 20	30.276	50.5	41.2	46.4	0.010	44.7	44.1	10	9	4.0	4.0
" 21	30.284	49.0	40.0	45.9	0.005	44.4	42.9	10	6	7.9	7.9
" 22	29.967	47.0	38.5	42.5	0.037	41.2	41.4	9	8	9.5	9.5
" 23	30.005	41.0	29.5	35.5	0.010	31.1	33.3	8	0	5.0	5.0
Mean	30.098	46.5	35.4	41.5	0.132	39.8	39.6	6.3	3.6	7.0	7.0

The range of Temperature during the Week was 21.0 deg.

The Weather.—Cloudy; 18th, rainy.

The Direction of the Wind was on the 17th W.S.W.; 18th, between S.W. and W.; 19th W.N.W.; from 3 p.m. S.W., from 10 p.m. W.N.W.; 20th W.; 21st W.; 22nd W.; 23rd N., 10 a.m. became W. E. J. LOWE.

THE SPIRIT OF JOHN KNOX.—The Dissenting majority of the Edinburgh Town Council have passed a series of resolutions disavowing the obligation and intention to restore the old church of Trinity College, one of the most ancient and remarkable Gothic fabrics in Scotland, but which, in 1848, fell a sacrifice to railway innovation. In doing so they have not only refused the appeals of the Church of Scotland, but resisted the combined influence of almost every representative of law and learning, of arts and antiquities, in that city.

ARREST OF THE SUPPOSED MURDERER OF MR. LITTLE.—Last Friday evening a man named Michael George Harrington was arrested at the Broadstone terminus, on suspicion of having been a party concerned in the late murder. He was immediately conveyed to Green-street station, where the charge was taken. Harrington was not in the employment of the company, but was a tax or rent collector, and lived in the neighbourhood of the terminus. His son, however, fills the situation of engine-driver on the line. At the time of his arrest he was entering the train for the purpose of proceeding down the line on business. The charge was preferred against him by two women, one of them named Catherine Feeny, residing in Watling-street, whose evidence it is stated is very strong. The prisoner, on being taken to the station-house, expressed his astonishment at the charge, which he denied emphatically. He was detained in the station during the night, and carefully watched. The prisoner was brought up for examination at Capel-street Police-office on Saturday, and again on Tuesday last, but no evidence was adduced sufficient to warrant his detention, and he was, therefore, discharged.

A VERY BAD CASE.—In the office of the Master in Chancery (Dublin) on Saturday last, counsel, on behalf of Mr. Thomas Eyre, of Bath, applied to the Master to receive proof of a bill of exchange for £17,000, dated Nov. 26, 1855, which was drawn by the late John Sadler, accepted by the manager of the Clonmel branch of the Tipperary Bank, and indorsed by John Sadler to Mr. Eyre. The Master said that for the present he should only receive the document as exhibited to him. It was a monstrous thing that this bill of exchange should have been accepted by the manager in November, 1855, shortly before the failure of the bank, for so large a sum as £17,000, when he knew perfectly well that John Sadler at that time owed the bank £280,000 or £250,000. In his opinion he ought to be indicted for fraud.

LAMENTABLE ACCIDENT.—A few days ago the Rev. William Mason, Vicar of Bilbly, near Alford, was standing on the platform at Louth with one of his daughters waiting for a passenger-train, by which he intended to return home, when an engine, rushing through the station, caught him by his coat, which was a long one, and, the cloth becoming entangled in the crank connecting the driving-wheels, he was dragged down, whirled round several times, and then dashed upon the platform. He was taken up quite dead. The rev. gentleman was in his fifty-eighth year, and has left a numerous family.

EXECUTION AT WINCHESTER.—On Tuesday morning Guiseppe Lagarva, Giovanni Barbalano, and Matteo Pettrich, the Italian pirates, were hanged on the top of the county gaol at Winchester. The crime for which they were sentenced to death, at the recent assizes, was the murder of James Pattinson and Evan Evans, on board the barque *Globe*, in the Bosphorus.

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION.—Last Saturday night, between five and six o'clock, Mr. G. Joynt, a gentleman who holds landed property at Mount St. Catherine, county Clare, which he recently purchased in the Encumbered Estates Court, while returning home in his gig, was fired at from behind a hedge. Fortunately, the attempt was unsuccessful; for, although wounded severely in the leg, Mr. Joynt was not dangerously injured. Though bleeding profusely, he drove into Limerick at a quick pace, to the house of his brother, where surgical aid was promptly rendered, and the wounds dressed. The reason assigned is, that Mr. Joynt had served notices of ejection upon tenants who are to be dispossessed in March. It is not long since the brother of Mr. Joynt received a threatening notice to the effect "that he should bear in mind the spirit of Clare was not yet dead, and that he ought to dread the fate of Gloster." Mr. Gloster was shot in his gig when going into Limerick from the county Clare, and the assassin was never discovered.

"A BIT OF A LARK."—Several of the Yorkshire papers give an account of the shooting of a burglar by a woman who believed her house was about to be attacked by robbers. It turns out that no robbery was intended, but only a "bit of a lark." A surgeon who lives in the neighbourhood of the woman's residence was, it appears, in the habit of paying his devoirs to her occasionally. He was on some such errand on the morning of the 19th inst., at about two o'clock, and was followed by two or three boon companions, who had been spending the evening with him, and who made their appearance just as he was endeavouring to obtain admittance to the woman's house. She, being alarmed at the noise they made, opened her chamber window, and, hearing them say something about going round to the back door, she fired a horse-pistol at one of the intruders, who instantly fell, and was soon afterwards removed by his comrades. The wounded man is the surgeon alluded to, and he is rather seriously injured in the neck.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

FOUR of the gun-boats now at Woolwich Dockyard are ordered to be forwarded to Portsmouth.

A DETACHMENT of Royal Artillery is under orders to leave Woolwich garrison for Ireland.

A LARGE number of men belonging to the late Turkish Contingent service, whose claims had been examined and certified, were last week paid off at the Tower.

SEVERAL officers of the Royal Engineers have recently returned from a tour of inspection to various eminent engineering establishments in this country, the object of which was to gain information with regard to any inventions or improvements.

A SCHOOL for the education of the numerous boys employed at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, has been opened in that establishment, and is under the supervision of the heads of the departments.

ON Monday morning some surprise was created among the troops at Chatham Barracks in consequence of an order being issued for the immediate departure of the depôts of the 12th Foot and the 45th Regt. to the camp at Colchester. At two o'clock in the afternoon the whole of the troops belonging to those regiments were assembled on the general parade-ground, for the purpose of being inspected by Colonel H. Jervis, Commandant of the Provisional Battalion, previously to their departure. The appearance of the non-commissioned officers and men on parade was extremely satisfactory to the inspecting field officer.

MAILS FOR INDIA.—ALTERED REGULATIONS.—The mails for India, &c., via Marseilles, which are at present forwarded from London on the morning of the following day (Monday), whenever the 10th or 26th of the month falls on a Sunday will, in future, on such occasions, be made up at the General Post-office, and dispatched on the evening of Monday.

INCREASE OF THE POLICE FORCE.—Orders were issued from the Home Office last week for an increase in the number of men employed in the metropolitan police force. The Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police having a considerable surplus out of the police rate this year, the entry of the additional constables will be forthwith proceeded with. This augmentation of the force has been recommended by Sir George Grey, in consequence of the alarming increase of garrotte robberies and burglaries, and the numerous complaints that continue to be forwarded to the Home Secretary of the inefficiency of the police by the inhabitants of the suburban districts, many of whom are desirous, for personal protection, to be sworn in as special constables, and to adopt the old system of watch and ward. The divisions doing suburban duty will be the first strengthened, and the men on night duty are to have beats assigned them that they will be able to pass round in five minutes.

THE LATE GALES.—Last summer the Elder Brethren of the Trinity House erected on the Rundle Stone, at considerable expense, an iron beacon and mast, surmounted by a ball fixed about 30 feet from the base. During the recent severe gales the whole fabric disappeared.

MUSIC.

At this Christmas season, "The Messiah," the greatest musical work ever produced by human genius, has engrossed the attention of the public. It was performed twice last week—at St. Martin's-hall on Wednesday evening, under the direction of Mr. Fullah, and on Friday, at Exeter-hall, by the Sacred Harmonic Society; and also on Monday last by the London Sacred Harmonic Society at the same place. On all these occasions there were overflowing audiences; and such, we trust, will be the case for generations to come, whenever this immortal oratorio is performed in a manner worthy of its grandeur and beauty.

Mr. Fullah's performance did great honour to himself and the system of vocal tuition which he carries on so successfully. The choruses were excellently sung by the pupils of his upper singing class; and the principal solo parts were sustained by Mr. Sims Reeves, Miss Dolby, Miss Banks, Mrs. Gilbert, and Mr. Thomas. Miss Banks and Mrs. Gilbert are rising young singers; and Mr. Thomas, who is making rapid progress, promises to become one of our best singers of sacred music. At the Sacred Harmonic Society's performance, on Friday, Madame Clara Novello, who has been sojourning for some time in Italy, made her first appearance this season, and maintained her well-earned reputation as the first of English sopranos. On that occasion Herr Formes was to have sung the bass part; but, when the performance was about to begin, it was announced that he had failed to make his appearance, and that, on inquiry being made, it was found that he had suddenly left England without any explanation whatever. His place was, in this emergency, supplied—and very efficiently too—by Mr. Thomas.

At the performance of the London Sacred Harmonic Society, on Monday, the principal soprano part was sung by Mrs. Sunderland, "the renowned Yorkshire singer," as she was described in the advertisements. It will be remembered that this lady a few months ago raised a perfect storm among the musical population of the north by her complaints of grievances which she had suffered from the management of the Bradford Musical Festival, in consequence of which she had thrown up her engagement. We had occasion at the time to express our opinion that her complaints had very little foundation; and on this account, as well as from the puffing announcement we have just quoted, we were not, we confess, prepossessed in her favour; but we have great pleasure in saying that Mrs. Sunderland, by her appearance on Monday at Exeter Hall, showed herself well worthy of the fame she has acquired in the most musical district of all England, and among people not likely to be deceived on such a subject. She is, in truth, a Handelian singer of the first class—possessed of a superb voice, brilliant execution, a cultivated style, and grand, as well as pathetic, expression. She is competent, in short, to fill the highest place in the greatest orchestra in England; and we trust that the metropolitan public will become better acquainted with her merits.

A VERY noble organ, built for Wells Cathedral, by the eminent builder, Mr. Willis, has been temporarily erected in St. Martin's-hall before its removal to its place of destination. It was opened to the London public by two performances, on Friday evening and Saturday morning last, by Mr. W. T. Best, the organist of St. George's-hall at Liverpool, one of the most accomplished performers in England. He played fine selections of music, calculated to display all the various powers of the instrument—fugues of Sebastian Bach and other great organ composers; movements from the orchestral symphonies of Mozart and Beethoven; and lighter pieces of the modern school—delighting numerous audiences, not only by the qualities of the instrument, but by his own masterly manner of developing them. The construction of the organ is evidently of the highest order; and, as the last work of an enterprising builder, it contains all the advantages of modern improvement. The "pneumatic lever," one of the latest and best of the recent inventions, is still further improved upon by additional patent valves, which enhance the rapidity and precision of the action, giving to the touch the ease and lightness of the pianoforte. There is a new "combination movement" invented by Mr. Willis, which acts upon the pedal organ simultaneously with the great organ; and there is, consequently, no loss of time in adapting the power of each to the other, as is usual in most large organs. The tone is of the purest description. The diapasons are full, rich, and mellow; and the stops which furnish the highest notes of the scale are clear and brilliant, without the shrillness which, in inferior organs, is often so offensive. In short, this organ does great honour to the builder, and shows the high state of improvement to which skill and science have now brought the king of instruments.

A VERY INTERESTING MUSICAL DISCOVERY has lately been made—the manuscript scores of Handel's Oratorios from which he himself used to direct their performance. It is well known that the original autograph scores of the oratorios are in the Queen's Library at Buckingham Palace; but the newly-discovered manuscripts are fair copies made by John Christopher Smith, Handel's amanuensis, for the composer's own use. The manuscripts, after Smith's death, came into the possession of his widow, and afterwards of his stepdaughter, who married a clergyman of the name of Rivers. He was succeeded in his property by the late Sir Henry Rivers, of Hampshire, who died in 1851. After his death the manuscripts, among other things, were sold under a decree of the Court of Chancery, and were purchased by a secondhand bookseller in Bristol—one Kuslake—for next to nothing. He advertised them lately for sale at the price of 45 guineas. The Sacred Harmonic Society wished to purchase, but were too late. They were anticipated by a Frenchman, M. Scholcher, who was (or is) in this country collecting materials for a biography of Handel. This has been a great disappointment to the Sacred Harmonic Society; but the fortunate purchaser has very liberally offered to place the scores at the Society's disposal whenever they may be required for any purpose of importance; and they are to be made use of accordingly at the approaching Handel Festival at the Crystal Palace. There are two hundred volumes; and they are enriched with annotations and directions in Handel's own handwriting, which must contain most important information and clear up many doubtful points respecting the performance of the music. M. Scholcher's liberality is highly praiseworthy; but it is much to be regretted that these precious relics of the great master whom England, above all other countries, is entitled to claim as her own, should have been allowed to pass into foreign hands. Perhaps it may be not too late to recover them, by offering the present possessor some consideration worthy of the spirit and munificence of this great nation.

THE THEATRES, &c.

OLYMPIC.—A new farce by Mr. R. Brough, evidently suggested by "Les Toilettes Tapageuses," though not a translation, was produced on Thursday week, entitled "Crimoline." The piece gives another opportunity to Mr. Robson of enacting the jealous husband, Mr. Cobbidly, who is the victim of a designing cook, Nancy Bitters (Mr. Rogers). This kitchen potentate finds her plans upon the fact of the materials for a crimoline petticoat having been introduced into the house; but she has at last the tables turned upon herself. The mischievous domestic wears the same article of dress, but conceals under it certain stolen property, conveniently suspended on the hoops, and the exposure of this forms the climax of the interest. The part is most ingeniously played by Mr. Rogers, whose talent for humour is conspicuous in the illustration of every available trait.

Mr. J. K. Planché contributes this season a fairy extravaganza, which is entitled "Young-and-Handsome," and relates to the love of the witch Mordicanta for the shepherd Aldor, showing how she is forestalled by Cupid, who throws first in the way of the latter the Princess Young-and-Handsome, daughter of the fairy Pastora. The witch summons Jealousy in aid of her revenge; the fiend employs Zephyr to fascinate the Princess, who accordingly flirts with a whole group of shepherdesses, her companions, and gets punished for his attempts by being thrown into a pond. Meanwhile, Mordicanta succeeds no better with Aldor, and is maddened with rage when the Princess bestows her hand upon him, in the Castle of Flowers. The bridal being celebrated, the happy pair embark in their fairy yacht, but the vessel goes to pieces—Aldor sinks, and Young-and-Handsome is borne off by Zephyr. In a cavern beneath the lake the witch tempts the bridegroom with the offer of riches, which he rejects, and is cast by her into the jaws of a dragon. Young-and-Handsome is less hardly dealt with. Borne by Zephyr to her boudoir, the former listens to her entreaties, and summons the winds to the aid of her imprisoned lord. The dragon is tamed by the power of Love, and Zephyr comes to the rescue of Aldor; but Mordicanta opposes, rendering it needful that a tempest should shatter the rocks, and disclose the "Porcelain Pavilion," where Love and Happiness perpetually reign.

PANTOMIMES.

With the exception of Mr. Planché's extravaganza just noticed, burlesque is banished from all the theatres this Christmas, save in connection with pantomimes. Of these latter, late in the week as Boxing-night arrives, we can render some account; though on their relative success we shall of course be silent until next week, when fuller opportunity and a further acquaintance will enable us to decide on their various claims.

DRURY LANE.—The pantomime at this house, written by Mr. E. L. Blanchard, and illustrated by the scenic skill of Mr. Beverley, is called "See, Saw, Margery Daw; or, Harlequin Holiday, and the Island of Ups and Downs." The comic scenes are due to Harry Boleno. Here we are told how "Margery Daw sold her bed and laid upon straw," how "here we go up, up, up, and here we go down, down, down; here we go backwards and forwards, and here we go round and round." The world is represented with an enormous plank thrown across it, with groups "up" and "down," alternating on the social scale with their condition correspondingly changed. Princess Margery Daw is a selfish, tyrannical "Little Pickle," who despises all who do work and will do none herself, but who is taught by Necessity a salutary lesson. Her palace is changed into the abode of poverty; when, exertion being necessary, the pins, needles, and other contents of the workbox are animated and personified, to assist her. Among the scenery the Golden Gates leading to the palace of Hugga-

mugga and the interior of the palace are distinguishable. The transformation scene, called the Fairy Factory of Fancy, exhibits abundant splendour and invention. Herr Deulin and Signor Veroni are engaged for Harlequins, Mr. Barnes and Mr. Tanner for Pantaloon, Harry Boleno and Mr. Barry for the Clowns, and Madame Boleno and Miss Honey for the Columbine. The various impersonations are by Dyk-wynkyn and Rosina Wright.

HAYMARKET.—"The Babes in the Wood; or Harlequin and the Cruel Uncle," is the self-explained title of the pantomime at this house. The scenery is painted by Mr. William Calceott, the music composed and arranged by Mr. Edward Fitzwilliam, and the entire pantomime is produced under the direction of M. Milano. The comic scenes are invented by Mr. W. Dorrington, and illustrate all the London holidays throughout the year. Harlequin is sustained by M. Milano, Columbine by Miss Fanny Wright, Pantaloon by Mr. Mackay, and Clown by Mr. W. Driver.

PRINCESS.—Mr. Charles Kean has provided a pantomime from the pen of Mr. T. M. Morton, on a popular legend—this season adopted from the "Arabian Nights," and entitled after it "Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp." Here we are introduced to the Chinese Conjuror, Abanazar, to whom Obrook, the Genius of the Air, shows a vision of the young tailor, Aladdin, and who, consequently, shows himself without delay at the establishment of the widow Ching Mustapha and son, as the brother of her lost husband. Having enticed the youth away they arrive at the Enchanted Cave, which Aladdin enters, followed by the faithful Kasree. Aladdin finds the Wonderful Lamp, when Abanazar quarrels for its possession; and, in the fury of defeat, rolls a rock on the aperture for the purpose of confining the mutineer for life. Aladdin rubs the lamp, and the scene changes to the abode of the fairy Silverstar. Afterwards Aladdin rescues the Princess Badecot Condour from the vizier Uglimugli, immersing the persecutor in a bath at boiling heat. The transformation scene consists of the Royal forest and hunting grounds, where the Emperor Runtitanti narrowly escapes from a wild boar, and Aladdin kills Uglimugli after a terrific combat. Runtitanti overflows with gratitude, and accepts Aladdin for a son-in-law, provided he can command a Palace. Aladdin rubs his lamp, and the Good Fairy descends in a glittering Palace, blazing with gold and jewels. Mr. Cormack is engaged for Harlequin, Miss C. Adams for Columbine, Mr. Huine for Clown, and Mr. Paulo for Pantaloon.

LYCEUM.—At this theatre burlesque and pantomime are associated in the opening, which consists of a travesty of Lord Byron's "Corsair," and of an extraordinary ballet produced in Paris, and since performed at Her Majesty's Theatre, written by Mr. W. Brough, and entitled "Conrad and Medora; or, Harlequin Corsair, and the Little Fairy at the Bottom of the Sea." A submarine aquarium, or Naiad's Coraline Temple, is the Little Fairy's abode, where a dance of water-spirits celebrates the opening of the Treasure-trove, with a bevy of fairies headed by Submarina, the guardian of "the deep, deep sea." Their object is to devise some scheme for the suppression of robberies, piracies, &c., and they determine to punish the Corsair by storm and shipwreck. The Little Fairy substitutes a reformatory proposal—marriage, as the best corrective for a fast young man. An Oriental Slave Bazaar forms the next scene. Enter the Corsair (Miss Woolgar) and the crew of the Golden Mary, attended by Lieutenant Babando (Mr. J. L. Toole), a desperately-comical conspirator against his captain. Yussuff (Mr. S. Calhassan), an Oriental Yankee slave-driver, here proposes to sell to the Grand Pacha Seyd (Mr. Barrett), who is dissatisfied with his goods, until Yussuff's niece Medora (Mrs. C. Dillon) appears merrily dancing, for whom the Pacha immediately strikes a bargain. But Conrad enters, and Pacha and guards fly, while Medora is borne off as the Corsair's bride. The Corsair's barque is next seen, suffering from a terrific tempest in the Egean Sea. The vessel sinks. Conrad and Medora are miraculously saved; but the crew resolve to get rid of the former by scientific assassination and re-sell the latter to the Pacha, in whose harem Gulnare (Mrs. B. White) and Zukina (Mrs. E. Melville) make their appearance. Medora is brought in captive; but Conrad, in the disguise of a dervise, comes to her rescue, when a desperate single combat ensues, and, unfair advantage being taken, Conrad is seized and consigned to a cell, from which, however, he escapes. Gulnare and Medora combine against the Pacha, who, in mistake, is made to wed the former. And now the fugitive Conrad loses his way in the woods and forests. Difficulties accumulate, but the Little Fairy introduces the dazzling transformation climax—"The Home of the Peri and Golden Gates of the Gardens of Perennial Spring"—consisting of four distinct scenes, revolving one into the other, each increasing in splendour, and closing with one of unequalled brilliancy. Messrs. T. Matthews and H. Marshall are engaged as Clowns, Mr. J. Marshall as Harlequin, Mr. Stilt as Pantaloon, and Miss C. Morgan as Columbine.

ADELPHI.—"Mother Shipton's Wager; or, Harlequin Knight of Love," is the title of the Christmas entertainment, which presents many ingenious points of story. The leading one is, of course, the Mother's wager which she lays with Merlin that he cannot make a single constant man. The enchanter presents the figure of a Norman Knight, Sir Beau, "the Knight of Love," who has seen in his dreams Constance, the fisher-girl, whose dreams have in like manner been visited by visions of the Knight. They meet, and recognise each other. Whereupon Mother Shipton resorts to divers expedients. Throwing the lovers into a deep sleep, by anointing Sir Beau's eyes, she makes him admire every woman he meets. Merlin depends on moral forces to counteract the machinations of the Mother. He preserves the lady's constancy as the best means of ensuring the final fidelity of the Knight. Constance, accordingly, is taught to follow her lover in the disguise of a boy, supposed to be always invisible, and ever present to his heart. Sir Beau, under the witch influence, woos the daughters of the Duke of Normandy; but, making love to both, defeats the intended purpose, and incurs banishment. Constance follows him into exile. Thrown by a violent storm on the Island of Naxos, Sir Beau becomes fascinated by Leda, who can transform herself into a swan, and thus brings the Knight into many perils. His deliverer is Constance. Returning to Normandy their marriage is delayed by Mother Shipton, who transforms them into Harlequin and Columbine, represented by Madame Celeste and Miss Wyndham. The scenery and costumes are superb.

STRAND.—"The Magic Mistletoe; or Harlequin Humbug and the Shams of London" is the title of the pantomime at this theatre. Some conception of the kind of fun provided may be formed from the description of the scenery; such, for instance, as the "Cave of Gammon," with its tenants, Swindle, Puff, and Cant, who cheat the Adelpates, and even the fairy Christmas herself. In the harlequinade that follows the characters speak—Miss Cuthbert, in the Clown; Miss Craven, in the Harlequin; Mr. J. Clark, in the Pantaloon; Miss E. Jacobs, in the Columbine; and Middle. Collison, in Harlequina. Mr. Leicester Buckingham is the author.

ASTLEY'S.—At this theatre "Paul Pry on Horseback; or, Harlequin and the Magic Horseshoe," is the title of the pantomime. It opens with the "Dell of Darkness." Erebus, the King, dispatches the imp Firebrand to poison all his enemies. We are next introduced to the "Regions of Refulgent Light," where Phoebus summons his Parliament in order to check the evils that infest the earth. Paul Pry is accordingly recommended, and receives his commission to spy into abuses; mounted on horse-back, he proceeds on his adventures. The "ticket-of-leave" system is exposed, and various incidents of fraud are detected and set to rights by Paul Pry; after which all parties meet in "The Temple of the Golden-footed Steeds," where the transformations take place; the harlequinade being doubled throughout.

SADLER'S WELLS.—The pantomime at this house is founded on "The Arabian Nights' Tale" of "The Fisherman and the Genie," after which it is entitled, with the sub-title of "Harlequin Padmanaba and the Enchanted Fishes of the Silver Lake." The scenery, by Mr. W. F. Fenton, includes many ingenious combinations, such as the "Chequered Dwelling of Black and White," "The Palace of Rainbow," "The Fisherman's Cottage on the borders of the Enchanted Lake," "The Magic Grove and effect of the Lunar Rainbow," and "The City of Colours and Fairy Temple." The Clown is Mr. N. Duellin; Harlequin, Mr. C. Fenton; and Columbine, Miss Sharpe. Naylor is Pantaloon, and the two Sprites are Masters R. and N. Duellin.

The SURREY pantomime, as usual, has been projected with a view to extraordinary splendour, and boasts of many costly scenes, chiefly painted by Mr. Dalby. It is entitled "Harlequin and the Summer Queen; or, King Winter and the Fairies of the Silver Willows." The Cave of the Winds; the Grove of Silver Willows; the magnificent Reception Chamber in the Palace of the Sun; the State Prison in the Palace of King Winter; the Ivy Grove of the Fairy Dell; and the Regions of Eternal Sunshine—all give opportunity for gorgeous scenic effects. There are two Columbines (Mesdames Marie and Agnes); and an Harlequina (Miss Wilmot). Mr. F. Glover is Harlequin; Mr. Buck, Clown; and Mr. Bradbury, Pantaloon.

The MARYLEBONE pantomime is entitled "Tit, Tat, Toe, My First Go; or, Harlequin N. E. W. S., and the Fairy Elves of the Fourth Estate." Caxton's printing press is allegorised very cleverly.—At the STANDARD Mr. Douglass presents his audience with "King Winter and Queen Spring; or, Harlequin Hickey-Pickety my Black Hen." The Transformation Scene, which is very magnificent, presents "the Golden Realm of Summer."—At the CITY or LONDON Mr. Nelson Lee has mounted his 200th pantomime, entitled "Anna Boleyn; or, Harlequin King Harry and the Miller of the River Dee." The Transformation Scene presents the "Grand Palace of Wealth and Luxury."—At the VICTORIA the title of the pantomime is "Harlequin William the Conqueror; or, King Vee and the Silent City; Wine, War, and Love, or Queen Virtue in the Vistas of Light and Glimmer." In this the work is sufficiently described.—At the BRITANNIA "Hushaby Baby on the Tree Top; or, the Comet of 1856 without his tail," is the fantastical title of the pantomime.—And, at the GRECIAN "Harlequin Crib, King of Clubs; or, a Fairy Game in the Golden Land of Speculation," has been produced by Mr. C. Smithers as an appropriate Christmas entertainment.

POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—On Wednesday evening a private view of this institution was accorded, in order to exhibit the new arrangements for the season which, by the enterprise of Mr. J. H. Pepper, have been provided for the instruction of the public. The union of this establishment with the Society of Arts is noteworthy. Classes have, consequently, commenced for working-men, to aid in qualifying them for the examination required by the society; and the large and well-appointed laboratory is always open to pupils for the study of practical chemistry. Among the novelties that we witnessed is a most interesting collection of wax figures, by Napoleon Montanari. They very beautifully illustrate the different characters of Mexican town and savage life, with their varied costumes and attributes. Mr. Leicester Buckingham also delivered an amusing lecture, illustrating the pitiful and diverting history of "Bluebeard," in connection with a series of admirable dissolving views, which will be the delight of children during the holidays. They are designed by Mr. Newman, and executed by Mr. Hine. An ingenious juvenile mechanical model theatre was also exhibited by Mr. Freeman, for the purpose of showing how two men could do the work of forty now employed behind the scenes at Drury Lane. A drama is provided for the important occasion—"One o'clock; or, the Knight and the Wood Demon." The ghost scene from the "Corsican Brothers" was also exhibited, in order to test the mechanism more fully. The Misses Greenhead accompany the performance with music. If the model can be made to work upon the large scale as well as the small, the contrivance will be found most useful to managers. Altogether the liberality of the entertainments provided for Mr. Pepper's patrons entitle him to cordial support.

COLOSSEUM.—Dr. Bachhoffner has now undertaken the management of this interesting exhibition, and on Wednesday we were invited to a private *conversazione*, preparatory to its opening on Boxing-night. In addition to the Greek Saloon, the Conservatories, the Aviary, Stalactite Caverns, Swiss Scenery, and the Panorama of London by Night, and of Lisbon before and after the Great Earthquake, we were treated to a grand concert, in which the orchestra of the Sydenham Palace was engaged; and the talents of various vocalists—particularly of Miss Susannah Cole and Miss Clara Mackenzie—were displayed to great advantage. There were also cornet, flute, and clarinet solos, by Messrs. Miller, Swendsen, and Pape. The whole was conducted by Herr Manns. The Orpheus Glee Union also assisted in giving variety to the amusements of the evening.

TERENCE AT WESTMINSTER.

THE old dormitory of St. Peter's College, Westminster, witnessed another performance of Terence's "Woman of Andros," on Monday, the 15th—the actors being Queen's scholars of that renowned seminary. At seven o'clock a loud burst of cheering announced the arrival of the Rev. C. B. Scott, the recently-appointed Head Master, with his distinguished guests;—among whom were the Dean (Dr. R. C. Trench), who wore the riband of the Bath, and was much applauded on his first appearance in the dormitory as official President of the College; Canons Repton and Jennings in their robes; Sir D. Dundas, M. Van de Weyer, Mr. Phillimore, Q.C., M.P., and many other clergymen and gentlemen.

The prologue, spoken as usual by the captain of the school (Mr. Ingham), referred in graceful and touching language to the deaths of several old Westminster men during the past year—Chief Justice Jervis, Dr. Haggard, of Doctors' Commons, and Professor Hussey, of Oxford, one of the most popular men of the day in his old school no less than in his University. The sad calamity which has deprived the world of science, the Chapter, and the College, of the services of Dr. Buckland, and the merciful dispensation which at length removed him "from darkness to light," were feelingly alluded to; and a neat compliment was paid to his successor, Dean Trench. The liberality of "old Westminster" was bespoken for the Crimean Memorial Fund. And the prologue concluded with high eulogiums on Miss Slade, foundress of certain exhibitions at Westminster and Christ Church, and Professor Cockerell, who has offered his assistance to his schoolfellows in the production of new scenery for their theatre—that in present use having done duty since 1809, when it replaced the first properties given by Dr. Markham, in 1768.

The interest of the play performed on Monday and Thursday week last hinges on the sufferings undergone by Pamphilus (Mr. Robinson), a young Athenian, who is enamoured of Glycerium, an Andrian lady of unknown parentage, but whose father not only opposes the match as derogatory to his family pride, but has contracted his son to Philomena, the daughter of Chremes (Mr. F. Catt). This forced marriage is put off by various schemes of Darius (Mr. Ingham), Pamphilus's clever, witty, cool, intriguing servant, who, in his master's interest, mystifies Simo, frightens Chremes, and contrives to delay the dreaded nuptials, until a *Deus ex machina* appears in the person of Crato, an Andrian (Mr. Green), who proves that Glycerium, the Andrian lady of doubtful reputation, is no other than Philomena, daughter of Chremes himself, who had been cast ashore on Andros while on a voyage to Phaula (Chremes's brother). The piece of course ends with the happy marriage of Pamphilus and Glycerium, a friend Pamphilus; while Philomena is united to Chariurus (Mr. Freeman), néce Pamphilus. Mr. Williamson as Simo, Mr. Ingham as Darius, and Mr. Robinson as Pamphilus, gained great applause; although we must observe on this head, that the simultaneous clapping of all the boys at particular well-known "points" savoured rather of a previously-concerted arrangement than of appreciation of the drama itself.

The epilogue, of some 120 lines, which created much amusement, introduced Pamphilus as returning from the United States (!) and horrifying his father Simo with details of the "peculiar institution." The unfriended slaveholders of the "free" Republic were very roughly handled in the hexameters and pentameters of the young gentlemen.

The school, which numbers some 150 boys, closed on Friday for five weeks' holidays—an extra week having been obtained (rather late in the day) for the Peace.

C. B. B.

PARIS FASHIONS.

THE visit of his Royal Highness the Prince of Prussia in Paris has given the signal for the commencement of the fêtes and amusements of the present season. Hitherto no assembly or party whatever had taken place in the upper circles. The fashionable world have now thrown open their salons; and a constant succession of entertainments has been given in honour of the Royal visitor. The costumes worn on these occasions present the same appearance of richness as during the preceding season. Velvet still takes the lead in fashion, but is worn with trimmings of a brighter colour than the dress. We remarked, a few evenings since, at the Italian Theatre, a dress of black velvet, the corsage low, with a berthe of Chantilly lace, headed by a light trelis or trimming of red velvet, which, on the body, forms regular squares, and extends towards the sleeves, terminating with bows and ends of the same coloured velvet. Another dress of lilac velvet, with a berthe of English point lace, and the trimming quadrilles in white velvet. The head-dress was of lace, interspersed with small lilac feathers, from which issued the lappets, which floated from the coiffure. In general, lace is greatly worn on the head, either alone, or mixed with feathers or flowers. Madame de Girardin recently wore at one of the representations at the Italiens large lappets descending from a diadem of diamonds. A charming Spanish lady wore a small cap composed entirely of roses, without leaves; and the finest white blonde lace was placed on the back of the head, as in the coiffures of the present day.

Attention is now entirely engrossed with preparations for the *Étrennes* or New-Year's gifts. The florists are not contented with imitating nature in order to adorn youthful beauty, but they have extended their art to the decoration of apartments. They have invented a kind of frame or basket in the form of a lustre, the branches of which are entwined with artificial flowers, which are sometimes mixed with real plants and green leaves. This elegant novelty is hung up to the ceiling in boudoirs or sitting-rooms, and is generally lit either with wax or with a lamp placed within the basket.

THE ILLUSTRATION.

There has been but little change in the costumes for children since our last report. Velvet is worn exclusively by little boys at balls; the colours being dark green, blue, red, or black, ornamented with rich stone buttons or galleon. Very little embroidery is added to it. The small jackets have all of them basques just above the skirt, with a plain galleon for the trimming, either darker or lighter than the dress. The corsage is cut low, and displays a very fine chemise, finished round the neck with a small band instead of a collar. Another corsage reaches the throat, with a collar of embroidery, which falls over the dress. The sleeves are rather loose, and under them are worn sleeves of cambric or muslin. The little white pantaloons fall somewhat below the knee, just beneath the bottom of the dress.

The costumes of the little girls are wholly composed of silk or muslin for every entertainment of the season. These juvenile dresses have begun to be loaded with ornaments, in imitation of those worn in more advanced life. One of these little skirts is trimmed from the waist down to the bottom with small flounces, the edges of which are cut or pinked out. The corsage is low, with braces and bows of ribbon on the shoulders. The colour is the same as the dress—either blue, rose, or white taffetas. Another dress is of taffetas *d'Italie*, the colour white, ornamented with velvet or satin ribbon disposed in knots on the head, and is worn in long flowing curls. Tresses are reserved for ladies. The extravagance of wearing petticoats of immoderate size is still held in vogue, in spite of the ridicule which has been thrown upon them in the piece entitled "Des Toilettes Tapageuses," performed at the Gymnase Theatre.



PARIS FASHIONS: JUVENILE DRESSES FOR THE NEW YEAR FETES.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)

THE SHADOW ON THE WALL.

SCHOOLTIME is o'er, then welcome home,
If lowly cot or lordly hall.
The schoolboy feels his time is come,
Nor dreads "The Shadow on the Wall."

O, odious birch! its every sprig
Doth seem with wailing voice to call—
"We bruise, not bend, the infant twig;
Look for 'The Shadow on the Wall.'"

O, youngster! do not think thy lot
The saddest that can thee befall;
Thou'lt have thy griefs—for who has not?—
To cast their "Shadows on the Wall."

If thou shouldst love, perchance the one
Thy heart holds dearer far than all
May scorn thee when thou think'st her won:
Ah! here's a "Shadow on the Wall."

Or thou mayst find false-hearted friends,
For faith is large, but truth is small;
And, when thy trustful dreaming ends,
Thou'lt feel "The Shadow on the Wall."

Or those thou lov'st may die. Think not
To hide them with their funeral pall;
For some can never be forgot,
But live as "Shadows on the Wall."

But hopeful still thy way pursue,
And let not shades thy soul appal;
For there must be some sunshine, too,
To make a "Shadow on the Wall."

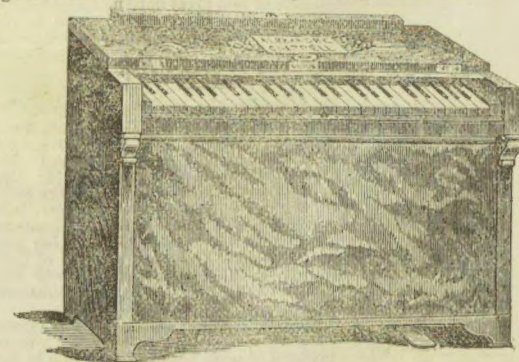
M. L.

THE ALEXANDRE HARMONIUM.

THIS instrument, which has recently been introduced to the public has a key-board of four octaves, and is played upon in the same manner as the pianoforte. Its tones are powerful, and at the same time very sweet, so that they are capable of great variety of effect.

The Harmonium has neither strings nor pipes, but the sounds are produced from small metallic springs termed reeds. They are made to vibrate by a current of air which passes over them from bellows put in motion by the feet of the performer.

The free-reed, as it is termed, in opposition to the beating-reed of the organ, is very ancient, having been used in China from time immemorial. Its modern revival in Europe dates only from the beginning of the present century. The credit of having brought it to perfection is justly due to M. Alexandre, of Paris, whose labours have been unceasing to accomplish that grand desideratum—an instrument capable of sustaining its sounds, and at the same time so portable that it can be carried from room to room, from the study to the drawing-room, from the school-room to the chapel, or from the parsonage-house to the church, with the greatest possible ease.



THE ALEXANDRE HARMONIUM.

As a means of social recreation in the drawing-room or chamber, the Harmonium possesses many claims to notice. It is a little band in itself, but, when used with the pianoforte, it produces a perfect ensemble of orchestral effect. Its varieties of tone or power to imitate different instruments depends upon its number of stops. On the larger instrument, with its full complement of fifteen stops, all the various effects of the orchestra can be imitated, and even upon the smaller ones little operatic airs, properly arranged, produce an effect not to be obtained upon the pianoforte, or indeed any stringed instrument.

Perhaps the perfection of this invention is the Harmonium-Pianoforte, combining the excellences of both instruments, which Mr. Chappell, the London agent for M. Alexandre, has lately brought into notice.

As we have said, the Harmonium is equally adapted to the church and to the chamber. In small village churches, where there are no means to purchase an organ, or where, if a patron is found to present one, an organist could not be paid, the Harmonium amply supplies the place of an organ. As regards the player there is no difficulty. The Vicar's lady, or the family governess, by the aid of a small guide-book and a few days' practice, will become competent to accompany the psalms and chants. A few simple chords that produce no effect on the Pianoforte have a fine one on the Harmonium. Indeed, the small skill required in its performance is one great advantage of this instrument.

For educational purposes the Harmonium is highly useful. The time has now arrived when it is thought advisable to teach in our schools the rudiments of harmony, the grammar of music, as well as how to master the more executive difficulties. This has hitherto been found almost impossible from the want of some cheap instrument capable of sustaining sounds. This difficulty is now done away with by the invention of the above instrument. In order to enjoy harmony in its full force and beauty its sounds must be sustained. The Harmonium not only accomplishes this, but it possesses the power of swelling and diminishing the tones, one of the greatest beauties in music.



"THE SHADOW ON THE WALL." DRAWN BY PHIZ.

DR. LIVINGSTON'S DISCOVERIES IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *North British Mail* states that Dr. Livingston was born in the village of Blantyre, where his father, Neil Livingston, and his mother, Agnes Hunter, were married; both his father and mother having resided there a long time previous to their marriage, and about thirty years after it. The family removed from Blantyre Works to Hamilton about sixteen years ago, where Dr. Livingston's mother and two sisters at present reside. Dr. Livingston's young family is residing just now with their grandmother in Hamilton. Dr. Livingston wrought in the mills as a piecer-boy, and, before he left, as a spinner—attending the classes in Glasgow during the winter months, and resuming his work as a spinner in the mills during the summer vacations. He left Blantyre Works in 1840, about the time he was engaged by the London Missionary Society to go out to South Africa. Dr. Livingston has two brothers in America—the elder brother, John, in business in Canada; his younger brother, Charles, a minister in the United States.

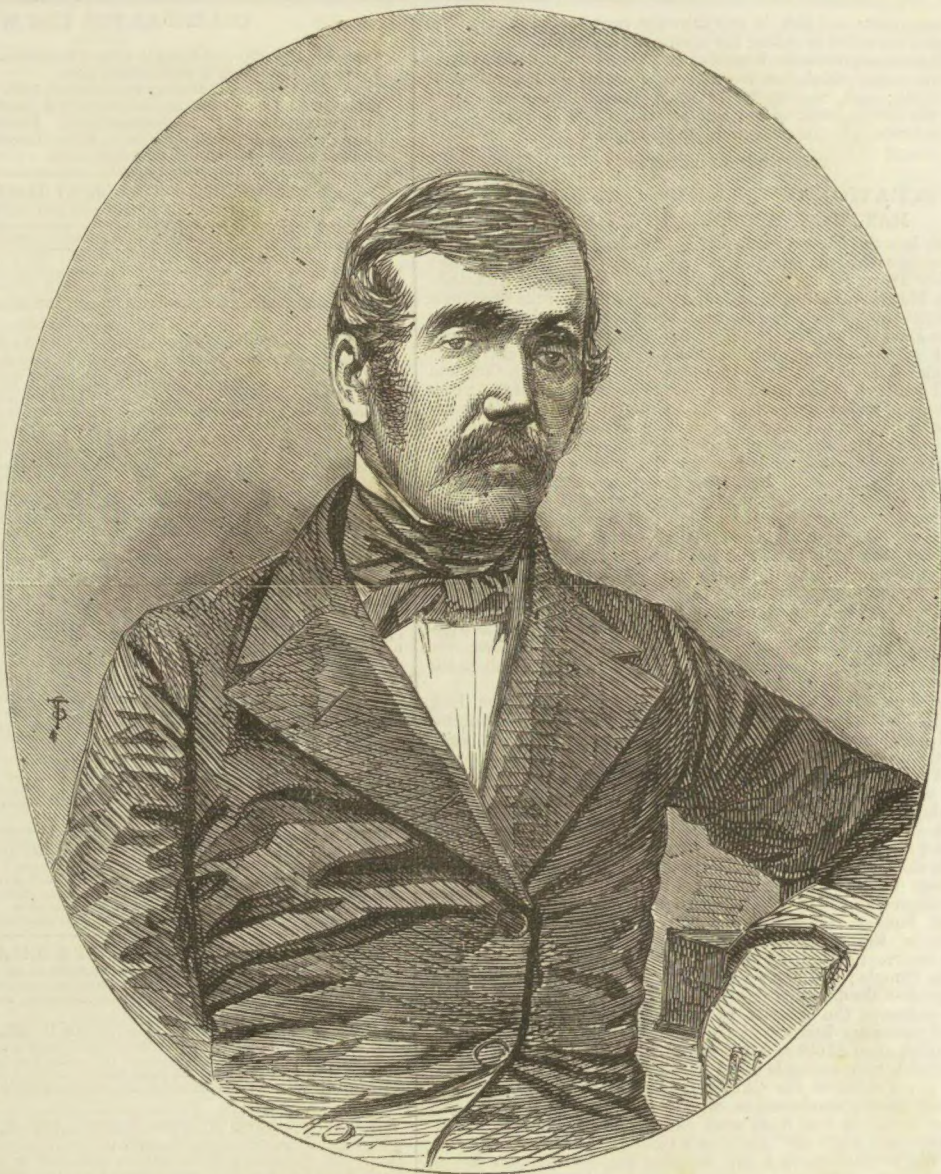
Dr. Livingston is nearly forty years of age; his face is furrowed through hardships, and is almost black with exposure to a burning sun. He hesitates in speaking, has a peculiar accent, is at a loss sometimes for a word, and the words of his sentences are occasionally diverted. His language is, however, good, and he has an immense fund of most valuable and interesting information, which he communicates most freely. He is in good health and spirits. His left arm, which was broken by a lion, is improperly set, a defect which he will endeavour to get corrected while he is in England. He has an affection of the avula, which will prevent him from speaking much in public for the present. He has scarcely spoken the English language for the last sixteen years. The last news, that Dr. Livingston heard from Europe while far away from the coast was when he was near Loando. He then read of the Battle of Balacava. It was a twelve-month before he heard further news. The wife of Dr. Livingston is the daughter of Mr. Moffatt, the civiliser of the Bechuana nation. Mr. Moffatt had lost sight of his son-in-law for some time, and attempted to penetrate into the interior to see what was become of him. He failed to reach him, however, but he sent on by friendly tribes a package of books, newspapers, and letters. This package was brought to the southern bank of a river which separated two hostile tribes. Dr. Livingston was then living far to the north of the river. The Southrons called to the Northmen, and told them that they had some property belonging to the Doctor, who was held in great respect by both tribes. The Northmen refused to cross over for it, saying that the books and papers contained witchcraft-medicine. "Very well," said the Southrons, "we leave them here, and if they are lost, on your heads the blame will fall." They then retired. The Northmen thought better of it, crossed over, placed the parcel on an island in the river, and built a hut over it. Twelve months afterwards Dr. Livingston found the parcel there safe. The Doctor has been struck down by African fever upwards of thirty times. He has constantly slept in the open air in the most unwholesome climates, and he has travelled over "sands and shores and desert wildernesses," with no earthly defence, he says, save his own right arm, but under the protection of the Almighty.

At the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society last week Dr. Livingston, in reply to questions put by the President, said the new articles of commerce he had found in the course of his travels were chiefly fibrous substances—some of them exceedingly strong, and one resembling flax—which were found in large quantities on the north bank of the Zambesi. The sugar-cane also grew abundantly, though the natives had no idea of the use of sugar; and indigo grew wild all over the country. There were acres of it near the village of Tete: it was, in fact, quite a weed. Wax and honey, quinine and senna, were also among the natural products of the country. Then there were dif-

ferent metals, including very fine iron ore, and malachite, from which copper was extracted. There were also coal-fields, in working which gold was occasionally found. The people, indeed, had been washing for gold from time immemorial, and were doing so still. Near to Tete there were no fewer than eleven seams of coal, one of which was 57 inches thick. The country was so fertile that in the gardens cultivated by the natives a constant process of sowing and reaping went on all the year round. It likewise grew immense quantities of grain. The country south of the 20th degree of south latitude was arid, and contained very few rivers; but to the north of that line the country was well watered, and very unlike what the centre of Africa was popularly represented to be. The country which he had traversed, indeed, was covered with a network of waters, many of which were large and deep, and never dried up. The natives belonged to the true negro family, having a good deal of very woolly hair, and being darker than the Bechuanas. They held their women in high estimation, and many of them became chiefs. He had found it unnecessary to burden himself with provisions in travelling, for the animals did not seem to know a gun, and would stand within bowshot of his weapon. In the interior the people were very kind to him; but he could not say they improved as he approached the confines of civilisation. The English name had penetrated a long way into the interior, and the English were known as "the tribe that likes the black man." Domestic slavery existed; but the exportation of slaves was very effectually repressed.

Dr. Livingston's first journey of exploration in Africa was undertaken in 1849, when he went as far as Lake Ngami. Three years later he set off on his great expedition, in which he traversed about 11,000 miles altogether—the greater portion of which was previously utterly unknown to Europeans.

The new country lately traversed by Dr. Livingston in passing from the Cape to Loando, and thence across the continent to Quilimane, is remarkable chiefly for the great number of flowing rivers. Beyond



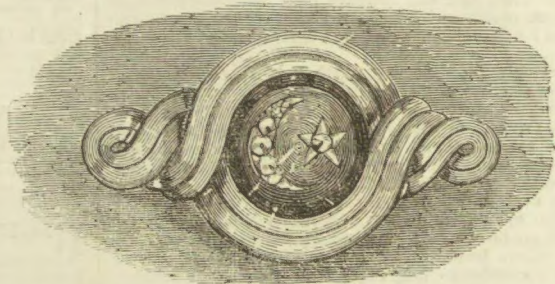
THE REV. DR. LIVINGSTON, THE TRAVELLER IN AFRICA.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY CLAUDET.



NEW CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW, BEDFORD NEW TOWN, CONSECRATED ON TUESDAY LAST.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

20 deg. south lat. waggons are no longer of any use; he therefore left the vehicle with which he had travelled from the Cape in charge of Sekeletu, Chief of the Makololo, and proceeded northwards in canoes up the Zambesi, a river larger than the Thames at London-bridge, until he came to about 13 deg. south lat.; there, mounting the yellow, or "Sinbad," in preference to the aristocratic vehicles of the country, which are men's shoulders—the chief sitting schoolboy fashion with a thigh on each shoulder, the legs falling down the breast, and holding on by the bearer's head (in a picture of the reception of missionaries from the ship *Duff*, at Tahiti, the King and Queen are represented as sitting on men's shoulders in this fashion)—he proceeded to Loando, on the west coast. Returning by the same conveyance to the Zambesi, and spending a month or two at his waggons, among his Makololo friends, he descended that river to nearly the east coast. The country is of a basin shape, instead of being, as those who never visited it ventured to declare, an elevated table-land or steppe of vast sandy plains. There are elevated fringes or rims of hard crystalline rocks, bounding a comparatively low alluvial valley, in many parts of which a traveller will pass weeks together without seeing a hill higher than an ant-hill, or even a jutting rock. This formation was first enunciated to the world by Sir Roderick Murchison, and he was led to this generalisation from studying a geological map of the southern part of the continent by Mr. Bain.

As a confirmation of the correctness of Sir Roderick Murchison's admirable induction it may be mentioned that Dr. Livingston was led to form the very same view on the spot, though quite ignorant at the time that the idea had been clearly enunciated by that eminent man three years before. The rivers in the central valley find exits to the ocean by fissures through the fringes or rims; and it is remarkable that the central valley had never—so far as we can hear—been described by the Portuguese. Indeed, "fireside travellers," who have gathered every iota of information these once-famous discoverers made public, find themselves so much taken aback by the idea of the Zambesi running from north to south in the centre of the continent, that they would fain deny it to be the Zambesi at all. And for the sake of feeling *au courant* with the progress of discovery would fain "make believe" that "the Leeambye runs underground to water the Kalihari desert." This magnificent river is called Luamegi (soft g),



TESTIMONIAL PRESENTED BY THE SULTAN TO THE NURSES OF SCUTARI.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

Luambeji, Lambeji, Ambesi, Leeambye (or Liambai), Ojimbese, Zambesi, &c., according to the dialect of the people who live on its banks. Each of these words means one and the same thing, viz., The River *par excellence*; and, truly, it is so, for it is the aorta of the network of waters in the great valley. Dr. Livingston saw the goodly Leeambye rushing through the eastern ridge or fringe, then followed it down to within a short distance of the sea—a glorious river, at least three-quarters of a mile broad up to the point where it divides into six or seven branches. Two of these are reported to be navigable, viz., Melumbe and Catrina. They go by other names too, as Luabo and Cuama; and, if the Portuguese pilots may be believed, there is one, if not two, ports superior to that of Quilimane. The river of Quilimane is not the Zambesi at all: this the Doctor can testify, as he traced it to that village, and would have examined the real mouths of the Zambesi, but for severe illness. He has been surprised to see it asserted, first, that The River in the centre of the country runs underground, and becomes lost, though he actually sailed on its surface, and found no tunnel; and, secondly, that The River, when it comes down to the coast, runs not into the ocean, but nowhere. When Dr. Livingston came through Egypt lately, he was struck by the exact resemblance between the valley of the Nile and the valley of the Barotse: the Leeambye, however, was the larger river of the two. The villages of the Egyptians stand on mounds, and are not inundated exactly as the villages of Makololo and Barotse are. And it is highly probable that the Nile and Zambesi take their rise in the same humid valley. The Doctor expresses thankfulness to the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company for their kindness in remitting the passage-money home from the Point de Galle. This company is remarkably liberal in all their arrangements for the comfort

of their passengers; and this is not the only case in which they have shown a generous spirit in aiding the agents of science and civilisation.

Dr. Livingston expresses the hope that our Government will continue in that noble course which has ensured success in the repression of the Slave-trade; and, undeterred by misrepresentation, crown their success by the development of the rich resources of the country, and thus render a return to the odious traffic impossible.

CONSECRATION OF THE NEW CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW, BEDFORD NEW TOWN.

ON Tuesday last the Bishop of London consecrated a handsome and commodious new church, situated in the vicinity of Oakley-square, Bedford New Town, in the populous parish of St. Pancras, and dedicated to St. Matthew, in the presence of a large number of the surrounding inhabitants and several of the neighbouring clergy, including the Rev. Canon Dale, Vicar of St. Pancras; the Rev. Charles Phillips, M.A., Incumbent of the new church; and the Revs. Sir William Dumbur, David Laing, William Gill, John Crichton, Mr. Hutton, Mr. Cox, and others. The church is one of a series erected within the last few years in this immense suburban parish, the population of which is larger than that of most of the Continental capitals, to meet the wants of the continually-increasing number of the inhabitants—a meritorious work, in which Bishop Blomfield and the Rev. Canon Dale have long taken a conspicuous part. For the last seven years the inhabitants of the immediate neighbourhood attached to the Church of England have had no other convenient place of worship than a mean "upper room" in High-street, Camden-town, and it is to accommodate this portion of the people, who have increased in number much beyond the capacity of the temporary church, that the new edifice has been erected, and also in the hope of attracting large numbers of the resident poor to hear the Gospel preached. After the ceremony of consecration, and an impressive sermon by the Bishop of the Diocese, the local committee for building the church entertained the Right Rev. Prelate, the clergy, and the principal members of the congregation at lunch in the building heretofore used as the temporary church.

The new church is a handsome structure in the Decorated or Late Gothic style, built of rough stone, and has been designed by the architect, Mr. John Johnstone, of the Adelphi, with a view to the accommodation of the largest possible number of persons. The plan consists of a nave, two side aisles, and a chancel. At the western extremity is a gallery, which will afford accommodation for the children of the Sunday-schools, in addition to some 200 persons. The roof is open, and the woodwork, pews, reading-desk, &c., are stained to resemble oak. The pulpit is of carved Caen stone. A handsome memorial window, in the eastern aisle, of richly-stained glass, was presented by the late Lieut.-General Sir Henry Brown, K.C.B., who died in March, 1855. Sir Henry Brown, who commanded the 23rd Royal Fusiliers, was eldest brother of Felicia Hemans. The chief subjects of illustration in the window comprise:—The Angel announcing to Mary the resurrection of our Lord; the Pharisee and the Publican in the Temple; and Mary wiping the feet of Jesus. The arms and monogram of the deceased officer are also emblazoned on the window. We have engraved the interior of the church. The site for the church and parsonage-house was presented by the Duke of Bedford, who also subscribed £1000 towards the building fund, £250 of which was contingent upon a steeple being built. His Grace has also contracted to pay £10,000 to the Church Diocesan Building Society, to be expended in the construction of churches in this district, and of the first instalment of that sum (£1000) the society have contributed £400 as a gift to St. Matthew's Church, in addition to a loan of £600. The original contract for building the church amounted to £7500, but nearly £2000 more must be expended before the edifice, with its approaches, furniture, &c., will be completed. Of this sum about £1000 is still due. The foundation-stone of the church was laid by Bishop Blomfield about six years since; and, although the roof has been on some years, the building committee deferred opening the sacred edifice until the greater portion of the debt was liquidated. The church has no endowment; and the incumbent (the Rev. Charles Phillips) is wholly dependent on the pew rents.

THE SULTAN AND THE NURSES OF SCUTARI.

THE noblest action recorded in the whole course of the late war is by most of us assigned to the women of England, and it has been fully appreciated. The self-sacrificing and firm character of the nation never was shown to a greater advantage, and the "Protestant Sisters of Charity"—such is the noble name which these English ladies have earned—have thrown an additional lustre on the fame of English women.

We have decorated the warriors somewhat profusely, if not unwisely; crosses of honour and medals shine alike upon breasts noble and ignoble. The Queen has also sent an especial jewel to Miss Nightingale; but it was reserved to the Sultan to decorate the others of that noble band of women. Twenty-nine brooches of the pattern engraved, bearing the crescent and star of the Moslem, set in brilliant on an enamelled boss of the Moslem colours, the whole mounted in a peculiar pattern in gold, have been made for the Sultan by Messrs. Hunt and Roskell, for the purpose of presenting to the Nurses. We believe the whole number to be made is forty; and Miss Nightingale, who we hear was at first unwilling to accept the decoration, has been commanded by the Queen to wear one. On the back of each brooch is inscribed the following:—

Presented by H. J. M. the Sultan to Miss —, in acknowledgment of her services in the hospitals of the British Army in the East, —, 1856.

The present is at once graceful and beautiful, and is a proof, we hope, that his Imperial Majesty appreciates the moral beauty of women.

It may not, perhaps, be generally known that at the time when the sufferings of the army before Sebastopol began to attract the attention of the public in England, some ladies offered to go out to Therapia to attend upon the patients in the hospital which had been established there for the navy. Their offer was accepted, and Mrs. Mackenzie, as lady superintendent, accompanied by Miss Erskine, Miss Veysie, and the nurses engaged for the service, arrived at Therapia in the beginning of January, 1855.

The hospital at that time was crowded, and though, from the comparatively small number of patients, the difficulties to be contended with were light compared with those existing in the overcrowded hospitals of Scutari, yet the services of these ladies were most valuable—and men suffering from severe wounds, from the dreadful consequences of frost-bites, from fever, and from dysentery, were soothed and nursed by them with never-failing kindness and care.

In the autumn of 1855, when the fall of Sebastopol and the cessation of active operations made it probable that during the winter there would not be any large number of patients in the hospital. Mrs. Mackenzie, whose health had suffered severely, returned to England, and was succeeded as lady superintendent by Miss Erskine, who continued until the hospital broke up to discharge the duties of that office with the same judicious management, tender care, and gentle kindness which had so remarkably distinguished her predecessor. At the end of July, 1856, the hospital was broken up, and Miss Erskine and Miss Veysie returned to England.

Many of the officers and men who were cognizant of the valuable service rendered by these ladies were desirous of evincing their gratitude by presenting them with some testimonial, and a subscription was entered into for that purpose. The money collected has been applied to the purchase of some articles of plate, upon which the following inscription has been placed:—

Presented to — by officers, seamen, and marines of H.M. Navy employed in the Black Sea during the war with Russia, in token of their gratitude for her unceasing attention and kindness to their sick and wounded comrades in Therapia Hospital, 1856.

It may interest some of our readers to know that Mrs. Mackenzie is the daughter of Dr. Chalmers; and Miss Erskine, the granddaughter of Sir James Mackintosh.

MUSICAL GAME FOR CHRISTMAS.—(H. SMITH, EDWARDS-STREET, PORTMAN-SQUARE).—"Gioco di Euterpe" is the name of this instructive and amusing pastime, which is intended to facilitate to beginners the knowledge of the relative value of musical characters, and to render them good timeists, besides being an entertaining game either for accomplished musicians or those totally unacquainted with the science of music. Several of our most eminent musical professors have testified their high sense of the value of this game for teaching musical notation and time; and among the testimonials is that of Madame Goldschmidt (Jenny Lind), who says of the "Gioco di Euterpe"—"As an auxiliary in communicating to young people elementary knowledge of music, it appears to her to be at the same time entertaining and useful."

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, Dec. 28.—1st Sunday after Christmas. Malthus died, 1834.
MONDAY, 29.—John Wycliffe died, 1384.
TUESDAY, 30.—Royal Society established, 1660.
WEDNESDAY, 31.—East India Company's charter granted, 1600.
THURSDAY, Jan. 1, 1857.—Circumcision. Union with Ireland, 1801.
FRIDAY, 2.—Edmund Burke born, 1730. Lavater died, 1801.
SATURDAY, 3.—General Monk died, 1670.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 3, 1857.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
2 35	3 15	3 35	4 15	4 55	5 17	5 39
6 25	7 05	7 25	8 05	8 45	9 07	9 29

Now ready, price One Shilling.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON ALMANACK FOR 1857, containing Twelve splendid Fine-Art Engravings, Twelve elegant Designs Emblazoned of the Months; Portraits of eminent Naval, Military, and Diplomatic Men connected with the late War; Notes of the Months, Articles of the Calendar, Mahometan and Jewish Calendars for the Year, Length of the Seasons, Beginning and Ending of University and Law Terms; the Calendar, showing the Times of the Sun Rising and Setting in London, Edinburgh, and Dublin on Every Day in the Year; the Times of the Moon Rising and Setting on Every Day near London, Times of High Water, &c.; Astronomic Phenomena, applicable to each Month, Eclipses, &c. With Twelve large Diagrams illustrating the appearance of the Heavens in the Evening of Every Month in the Year; Recently-discovered Planets; Meteorological Instruments and their Uses; Queen and Royal Family; Cabinet Ministers; Government and Law Officers and Officers; City Officers; Analysis of the Metropolitan Local Management Act; Metropolitan Officers of Health; Stamps, Taxes, Law and University Terms; Historical Memoranda on the Paper Duty, &c. The Astronomical Department by J. GLAISHER, Esq., F.R.S., of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich.—Published at the Office of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, 198, Strand.

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.—Monday, The LADY OF LYONS: Claude Melnotte, Mr. Murdoch, Pauline, Miss Reynolds. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, The HONEYMOON. Friday and Saturday, A Comedy. And Every Evening the New Fantomine of The BABES IN THE WOOD, or Harlequin and the Cruel Uncle. The first Morning Performance of the Fantomine on Thursday next, Jan. 1st, commencing at Two, concluding at Four.

ROYAL PRINCESS' THEATRE.—Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM. Saturday, the CORNICIAN BROTHERS. And the Fantomine every Evening. Mendelssohn's celebrated Overture to Midsommer Night's Dream will commence 5 minutes before 7.

THEATRE ROYAL, ADELPHI.—Glorious Christmas. Attraction of MOTHER SHIPTON: or, Knights of Love and Enchanted Whistle Piccolo.—PAUL BRY. A new Original Union Barlesque and Fantomine, called MOTHER SHIPTON; or, Harlequin Knights of Love, or the Enchanted Whistle Pipe Piccolo. Harlequin, Madame Celeste; Columbine, Miss Wyndham.

ASTLEY'S ROYAL AMPHITHEATRE.—Monday, Dec. 29, and all the Week, Shakespeare's MACBETH, with Equestrian Illustrations by Mr. Cooke's trained Horse, Macbeth, Mr. James Holloway. Also the SCENES IN THE CIRCLE. To conclude with a new Grand Equestrian Fantomine, called PAUL BRY ON HORSEBACK; or, Harlequin and the Magic Horseshoe. With new Scenery, Properties, Transformations, and Decorations. Commence at Seven o'clock.

GREAT NATIONAL STANDARD THEATRE.—The GREAT PANTOMIME OF THE SEASON is, as usual, the "Standard." The Transformation Scene the most beautiful, most costly, and complicated piece of Machinery ever witnessed. Morning Performances, Friday, Saturday, and Monday, at 12.

MR. ALBERT SMITH'S MONT BLANC, BADEN, UP the RHINE, and PARIS, is NOW OPEN EVERY EVENING (except Saturday), at 8 o'clock. Stalls, 2s.; area, 2s.; gallery, 1s. Stalls can be secured at the Box-office, EGYPTIAN-HALL, Piccadilly, every day, between 11 and 4, without any extra charge. The Morning Representations this week will take place on Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday, at 3 o'clock.

MISS P. HORTON'S POPULAR ILLUSTRATIONS.—Mr. and Mrs. T. GERMAN REED will give their ENTERTAINMENT, introducing several new Illustrations, at the ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, 14, Regent-street, EVERY EVENING (except Saturday), at Eight o'clock. A Morning Performance every Saturday at Three o'clock. Stalls, 2s.; area, 2s.; gallery, 1s., may be secured at the Gallery, from 11 till 4 daily; and at Cramer, Beale, and Co.'s, 201, Regent-street.

THE SISTERS SOPHIA AND ANNIE, in their original Entertainment, entitled SKETCHES FROM NATURE, will appear, MONDAY Dec. 29th, and during the Week, at the Queen-street Hall, EDINBURGH. Morning performances on Thursday and Saturday.

MR. W. S. WOODIN'S OLIO OF ODDITIES, with new costumes, and various Novelties, Vocal and Characteristic, every Evening (Saturday excepted), at Eight o'clock. Morning Performances on Saturdays, at Three.—Private Boxes and Stalls may be secured, without extra charge, at the Box-office, POLYGRAPHIC HALL, King William-street, Charing-cross.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.—The CHRISTMAS Entertainment is now on the most liberal and extensive scale.

New Lecture by J. H. PEPPER, Esq., on "Optical Illusions," with curious experiments. Juvenile Lecture on "Fireworks," with increased Illustrations and Exhibition of the Grand "British Bouquet," displaying the Portraits of her Majesty, Prince Albert, and the Royal Family, in magnificent Pyrotechnics, by Mr. Darby. Miniature Juvenile Model Theatre, by Mr. Freeman, who will exhibit the Ghost Scene from the "Corsican Brothers." M. Legrenia's astonishing Conjuring Tricks and Comic Deceptions. Entire new series of Dissolving Views by Mr. Clare, illustrating the "Traveller's Portfolio." Gratuitous Distribution of thousands of beautiful ornaments and Mappin's Pocket-knives from the Glass Case, open on Thursday (New Year's Day). Second and most costly series of Dissolving Views, illustrating Blue Beard, with humorous and original descriptions by Leicester Buckingham, Esq. Admission to the whole, 1s.; children and schools, half-price.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.—COLOSSEUM OF SCIENCE AND ART COMPANY (Limited).

ROYAL COLOSSEUM, Albany-street and Regent's-park.—The Public is hereby informed that the above magnificent Exhibition, constructed on a scale of grandeur second only to the Crystal Palace, combining within its walls all the leading features of the several London Exhibitions, is NOW OPEN Daily at Twelve, and Seven in the Evening. Under the Direction of Dr. BACHHOFFNER, F.R.S. Grand Promenade and other Concerts, by the Orchestra of the Crystal Palace, Systematic, under the Direction of Herr Mann. Colossal Panoramas of London by Day and Night, with appropriate Music by Mr. Barsford on Messrs. Bevington's splendid Apollonicon. Dissolving Views—Stipendious Cascade and Mountain Torrent of Real Water, Swiss Scenery, &c.—Selections of Glees, Madrigals, and Part Songs, by the Orpheus Glee Union—Grand Saloon, Bazaar, Swiss Cottages, Conservatory, Aviary, and Stalactite Caverns—Gigantic Panoramas of Lisbon, before and after the Great Earthquake, &c., &c., &c. Admission Reduced from 4s. 6d. to One Shilling.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, EXETER HALL. Conductor, Mr. COSTA.—On FRIDAY NEXT, JAN. 2, 1857, as an extra Repetition Performance, Handel's MESSIAH. Vocalists: Madame Clara Novello, Miss Dolby, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Thomas. With Orchestra of 700 Performers.—Tickets, 3s., 5s., and 10s. 6d.; or Subscriptions, one, two, or three guineas each (the two latter classes only being entitled to extra tickets for the two past Subscription Concerts), now ready at the Society's Office, No. 6, in Exeter Hall. On Jan. 9 Mendelssohn's Lobgesang and Mozart's Requiem, being the next Subscription Concert.

CANTERBURY HALL, Westminster-road.—OPEN EVERY EVENING.—The celebrated SPANISH MINSTRELS will appear in their National Costume at Nine and Eleven o'clock, in addition to the usual VOCAL ENTERTAINMENTS.—Suppers, &c., until Twelve o'clock.

CALDWELL'S ASSEMBLY ROOMS, Dean-street, Soho.—SOCIETIES DANCANTES Every Night.—Arrangements for the Christmas festivities, long quadrille nights, and New Year's Eve. Admission 1s. The second Ball Masque will take place on Thursday, Jan. 8, 1857. "Don't forget, papa, the annual juvenile ball, grand distribution, Christmas-tree, to take place on Tuesday, January 13, 1857, commencing at 7." Tickets 1s. each.

GENERAL TOM THUMB HAS ARRIVED.

REGENT GALLERY, 69, QUADRANT. Three Levees Daily.

PARTICULAR NOTICE.—Ladies and families who can conveniently attend the early Morning Levees (from Eleven till One o'clock) will incur much less inconvenience from the crowd than by visiting the later Levees.

Hours of Exhibition from Eleven till One, Three till Five, and Seven till Ten o'clock. Admission, 1s., without regard to age; Reserved Stalls, 1s.; Children, 1s.; Drawing-room Seats, 2s.; Children, 1s. 6d.

PHILO-PERISTERON SOCIETY.—The Annual Grand SHOW OF PIGEONS belonging to the Members of this Society will be held on TUESDAY, the 6th JANUARY, 1857, in the FREEMASONS' HALL, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's Inn-fields, from One o'clock to Four p.m. Admission by Tickets only bearing the signature of a Member. Gentlemen desirous of attending the exhibition may apply to the Secretary for Tickets if unacquainted with any of the Members.

W. W. HAYNE, Hon. Sec., St. James's-road, Croydon-common.

JUVENILE BALL.—The Seventh Annual Juvenile Ball of the WHITTINGTON CLUB will be held at the FREEMASONS' HALL, Great Queen-street, on THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 1. Full particulars can be obtained at the Temporary Offices of the Club, 262, Strand.

HANWELL COLLEGE AND PREPARATORY SCHOOL.—THE TERMS of this long-established, economical, and successful Institution may be had on application to the Principal. N.B. Unusual and very peculiar advantages are afforded to Young Gentlemen destined for India.

CITY OF LONDON LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY 18, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars. E. F. LEEKS, Secretary.

ROYAL ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL, for the Treatment of Clubfoot, Spinal and other Deformities, 315, Oxford-street (late Bloomsbury-square). Number of patients admitted 20,000 Under treatment 1,000 Severe cases waiting for admission 200 Increased accommodations have been provided, but additional funds are required to render them available. £10 10s. constitutes a Life Governor, £5 5s. a Governor for ten years, £1 1s. annually an Annual Governor. Contributions thankfully received at Messrs. Martin's, 68, Lombard-street; Hanbury's, 60, Lombard-street; Union Bank of London, Argyll-place; and by the Secretary, at the Hospital. GEORGE KEMP, M.A., Chap. and Hon. Sec. BENJAMIN MASKELL, Secretary.

THE YEAR 1857.

We have great pleasure in announcing various contemplated Improvements in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, in the respective departments of Printing, Engraving, and Literary Contributions; also in announcing a series of the finest Works of Art. On February 7th,

A MAGNIFICENT TWO-PAGE

PORTRAIT OF THE QUEEN,

BEAUTIFULLY PRINTED IN COLOURS, AND WORTHY OF THE BEST FRAME.

ALSO, PORTRAITS OF

THE LORD CHANCELLOR

AND

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

CAREFULLY PRINTED IN COLOURS.

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PRICE FIVEPENCE EACH WEEK.

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Office, 198, Strand, December, 1856.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1856.

THE agitation against the Income and Property Tax assumes large proportions, as the time approaches for the reassembling of Parliament. Great as well as small towns have begun to stir in the matter; and we are promised a monster demonstration in the metropolis of a character sufficiently energetic to weigh upon the seats and influence the votes of popular members. As the present Parliament cannot have long to live, it behoves those who are not quite certain of the footing on which they stand with their constituents to beware how they vote upon this question. It is not that the people object to an Income and Property Tax as such, that the agitation threatens to become formidable,—but because they feel that the Government has broken faith. The difference of a few days in the signature of the Treaty of Paris has been considered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer a sufficient justification for the imposition during an additional twelvemonth of the tax at its war rate of sixteenpence in the pound; and the poorer payers of the tax—the struggling clerks, mechanics, and tradesmen, with £100 per annum, to whom the amount of the tax, perhaps, makes all the difference between ease and embarrassment—not unnaturally complain of the sharp practice of the Government, and the juggle between the natural and the financial year, which has been taken as the pretext for an extension of the tax which Parliament never intended, and at which the sense of justice and equity revolts. On this point, at least, we expect that the Government will be compelled to yield to the wishes of the people; but the people may, nevertheless, be very sure, that unless they not only move in the matter, but keep moving, the Government will be at no pains, and in no hurry, to relieve them of the load of an impost which is but too productive and too easily collected. To remain quiescent under the burthen of the sixteenpence for a day longer than equity requires, is to encourage the Government to perpetuate the tax at that amount. At sevenpence in the pound the burthen is sufficiently great. At sixteenpence, to pay the costs of an inglorious war, and an illusory peace, it is wellnigh intolerable.

As regards the tax itself, in its original form as imposed by Sir Robert Peel for wise financial and economical purposes, we are not of the number of those who indulge in the hope that it will ever be dispensed with. Three per cent is not an oppressive insurance to pay for the blessing of order, the stability of Government, and the security of property. Besides, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has a potent argument with which to meet the objectors who clamour for the total abolition of the tax. He must have the money either from that source or from some other. Those who would repeal the Income-tax are bound, if they would convince the Parliament or the Government of the soundness of their views—to show by what less objectionable and oppressive and equally productive means they would raise the sum required for the necessities of the State. Until they do that, they leave the Government on a vantage ground which it is not likely to abandon. But when the Government, on its side, to excuse its own apathy or ignorance, insists that such a tax can never, under any circumstances, be made perfectly equitable and inoppressive, it lends force to the arguments of those who would abolish it altogether. We believe that the great bulk of taxpayers recognise the abstract justice, as well as the necessity, of the tax; and if the Government would only yield so far as to strive to make the unpopular, but inevitable, impost a little more popular, by at least considering patiently the arguments of those who maintain that its unfairness is remediable—it is possible that means might be discovered for making it a popular, and thereby a permanent, source of revenue. But men like Mr. Gladstone—and we fear we must add Sir Cornwall Lewis—by this haughty refusal to admit any evils in the tax or in its modes of collection and assessment, exasperate the taxpayers whom, if good financiers, and wise statesmen, they would zealously endeavour to conciliate.

A good deal of discussion has lately taken place upon the supposed rights and the alleged wrongs of Scotland—upon the heraldic indignities offered to the Unicorn; upon the partial and insulting use of the words England and English, when applied, instead of the words Great Britain and British, to things appertaining to Scotland as well as to England, in the corporate capacity of the two countries; and upon a whole host of grievances similar in weight and in cruelty to these. In Edinburgh, and in some other places north of the Tweed, a considerable amount of ill-feeling has been created by the few lords and lawyers who have

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

MIDDLESEX REFORM ASSOCIATION.—An extraordinary general meeting of the members of the Middlesex Reform Registration Society was held at the offices, No. 6, Jerinyn-street, St. James's, on Monday last, for the purpose of dissolving the society. The chair was taken by Mr. Donald Nicoll, who expressed his regret that so useful a society should fail to command support, and suggested that it might be amalgamated with some other society of a kindred nature. Several other gentlemen addressed the meeting in terms strongly censuring the apathy of the Liberal electors of Middlesex, and the niggardliness which refused to subscribe towards an object so essential to the sustenance of their cause. Mr. Coppock then moved a resolution that the society should be dissolved for want of funds, and that the books and papers should remain in the care of the committee for future use and reference. An amendment for the continuance of the society was put and negatived, and the original resolution having been carried, a vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

SWEARING IN OF THE RECORDER.—On Saturday last a Court of Aldermen was held in their chamber at Guildhall, chiefly for the purpose of swearing in the newly-appointed Recorder, Russell Gurney, Esq., O.C., the late Common-Sergeant. The minutes of the last court having been read and approved, and some routine business having been transacted, Russell Gurney, Esq., entered the court amidst cheers. The usual oaths were then taken, and the learned gentleman having been sworn, walked to his seat at the right hand of the Lord Mayor. He said he could not sit down without expressing to the members of the court his thanks for the honour they had done him by placing him in their confidence as Recorder of their ancient city. As he had been placed in that situation, he should do his duty to them and to the public. He hoped he should return their confidence by an anxious desire, upon his part, to do the duties of his office; and he should never fail to maintain the honour and dignity of the city of London.

SAINT DUNSTON'S IN THE WEST.—On Tuesday evening week a "social gathering," or parochial tea meeting of nearly 300 parishioners of all classes took place at the Sussex Hotel, Bouverie-street: the guests being chiefly those who had attended the series of lectures to the working classes, just concluded. The chair was taken by the Rev. E. Auriol, the Rector. After tea several glees and catches were sung, the Rev. Mr. Lister, the Curate, alternately with the organist, presiding at the piano-forte. Addresses were then delivered by a few of the parishioners, and chemical experiments were provided for the amusement of the children. The room was tastefully decorated with banners, transparencies, and wreaths of flowers; among which were inscribed in gold the names of several olden "worthies" of St. Dunstan's, including Tyndale, Dr. Donne, the poet, once Rector of the parish; Izaak Walton, Praise God Barebones, Richard Baxter, and Samuel Johnson. The evening closed, as it had commenced, with prayer and a hymn; and the happy feelings of those present proved that religion properly practised leads neither to habits of gloominess nor asceticism, but that it is strictly in accordance with Holy Writ to be sometimes merry as well as wise.

THE FRANKLIN EXPEDITION.—On Tuesday evening a public meeting was held at the London Mechanics' Institution, Southampton-buildings, for the purpose of considering the propriety of supporting the project of Dr. King and Lieutenant Pim for a new land and sea expedition in the neighbourhood of the Great Fish River, in search of further traces of the missing expedition. Lieutenant Pim addressed the meeting at some length, describing that part of the plan which referred to himself. At the conclusion of his speech, which was much applauded, resolutions approving the project were passed unanimously.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—The nomination for the two King's Scholarships, vacant at this time of the year, took place on Saturday, the 20th inst. The Board of Examiners consisted of Mr. Potter (chairman), Mr. Goss, Mr. Lucas, Mr. H. Blagrove, Dr. Sterndale Bennett, Mr. W. Dorrell, and Mr. F. R. Cox. The number of candidates examined was thirty-eight—seventeen young gentlemen and twenty-one young ladies. The following were elected scholars:—Miss Sarah Lousia Kilpae and Master Charles Wm. Isaac.

FRAUDS IN THE CITY OF LONDON UNION.—Throughout the whole of Saturday last the committee of emergency, appointed by the body of the Board of Guardians, in consequence of the discovery of malpractices on the part of Paul the clerk, and of Manini the collector of the rates, were engaged in following up the investigation of the accounts. Many defalcations and undoubted criminal acts have been discovered, but the investigation was chiefly confined to the case of Paul, whose peculations are found to have extended over as many as twelve years, and are of a most serious character. The Board have taken active measures to capture both of the delinquents, and for this purpose they have secured the assistance of one of the most experienced members of the detective force, who is instructed to spare no expense in order to bring the offenders to justice. One hundred pounds reward has been already offered, and it is said there is but little doubt that both of them will be speedily captured.

ESCAPE OF CONVICTS FROM WOOLWICH ARSENAL.—On Tuesday three convicts, named James Taylor, James Wright, and Joseph Wright, escaped from the *Defence*, hospital hulk, having first obtained possession of the gig belonging to the commander of the vessel, Captain Warren, in which it is supposed they sailed down the river in order to land at a secluded spot. The fugitives recently arrived at Woolwich as invalids.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—In the Court of Bankruptcy on Monday last the petition to the Commissioner to direct an application to the Court of Chancery for the appointment of a receiver under this bankruptcy was heard and dismissed. Mr. Linklater stated that the assets of the bank were between £280,000 and £290,000, independently of the assignees' interest in the mines in Wales, which have been variously estimated at from £40,000 to £80,000. The 5th of January has been fixed for discussing the disputed proofs of debt.

A YOUNG LADY NEARLY GAROTTED.—Last Sunday evening, between eight and nine o'clock, a young lady was returning home from church. Her way lay along Oxford-street, and she took the quiet south side, apprehending no danger in such a thoroughfare. Just as she was passing Laurie and Marner's coach manufactory, a man, whom she had noticed for some time dodging alongside of her, suddenly seized her by the arms, and pinned them behind her back. At the same moment another fellow rushed forward, apparently to assist in rifling her. The lady's terror was so great that she could not call out; but, fortunately, at this instant a policeman turned into Oxford-street from one of the small streets, and the vagabonds immediately ran across the street, where they mingled with the crowd and disappeared. The young lady was taken home in a cab, half dead with terror and agitation.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—After a sudden increase of mortality the weekly return again exhibits results of a very favourable character. In the week that ended on Saturday the deaths registered in London decreased to 1060. Last week the births of 868 boys and 823 girls—in all 1691 children—were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55 the average number was 1465.

THE GREAT GOLD ROBBERY.—On Wednesday morning Pierce, Burgess, and Tester, were again placed at the bar of the Mansion-house, before the Lord Mayor. Mr. Wontner applied to his Lordship to order the prosecution to give up certain documents and papers found at Pierce's house, amongst others a lease and several I O U's; but the application was refused, on the ground that it would be unsafe to grant it in the present state of the proceedings. "It was impossible," his Lordship remarked, "to tell how they might bear upon the robbery, or how they might tend to the completion of the charge against the prisoners." The depositions of the witnesses (44, exclusive of Agar), having been read over, the three prisoners were committed for trial at the next sessions of the Central Criminal Court.

THE CHURCH ORNAMENT QUESTION.—On Saturday last the Judge of the Arches' Court gave judgment in the long-pending case of the ornaments in use in the churches of St. Paul and St. Barnabas, Pimlico. It will be remembered that, on the 8th of December, 1855, the Consistory Court decreed that a faculty should issue to the incumbent and the churchwardens of St. Paul to remove the credence-table, and the cross on or near to the communion-table; to take away all cloths at present used in the church for covering the communion-table during Divine service, and to substitute a covering of silk or other decent stuff. With respect to St. Barnabas, the churchwardens were ordered to remove the stone communion-table, and to substitute therefore a movable table of wood; to remove the credence-table, to remove the cross on the chancel screen, and that on or near the present structure used as a communion-table to take away all the cloths at present used in the church for covering the structure used as a communion-table during Divine service, and to substitute one only covering for such purpose of silk or other decent stuff; and further, to remove any cover used at the time of the ministration of the Sacrament, worked or embroidered with lace, or otherwise ornamented, and to substitute a fair white linen cloth, without lace or embroidery, or other ornament, to cover the communion table at the time of the ministration of the Sacrament; and to cause the Ten Commandments to be set up on the east end of the church, in compliance with the terms of the canon. An appeal was brought from that decree, and judgment was accordingly pronounced on Saturday, the case having occupied the attention of the Court for several days. The decision was that the judgment of the Court below should be affirmed in all its points, and then the only question that remained was as to costs. The Judge (Sir John Dodson) was of opinion that the Court below did quite right in not giving costs; but as an appeal had been taken to that judgment, and as he felt himself constrained to affirm it, he considered it to be his duty to affirm it with costs of the appeal to that Court. The Proctor for the appellants announced that he was directed to assert appeals in both cases to the Judicial Committee.

TOWN AND TABLE TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &c.

The leading literary events of the week relate to Dr. Johnson and James Boswell. Monday gave us an inimitable "Memoir of Johnson," by Mr. Macaulay; and Tuesday produced (if possible) a still more attractive contribution to our literature in the shape of ninety-seven unpublished letters written by James Boswell to his old and intimate friend (as he invariably calls him in his *magnus opus*), the Rev. William Johnson Temple, Rector of St. Gluvias, in Cornwall, with whom he had become acquainted at Glasgow years before his love of wandering had carried him from Scotland to Corsica. Temple was a man of literary tastes, and when Boswell first visited London had chambers in Farrar's-buildings, at the bottom of Inner Temple-lane, which he lent to his friend Boswell. He wrote with elegance, and his character of the poet Gray, with whom he had been intimate, was adopted by Mason in his "Memoir," and by Johnson in his "Life of Gray."

Mr. Macaulay's article on Johnson is a contribution to Mr. Black's "Encyclopædia Britannica;" and, though deficient in dates and other matters to our thinking essential for the work in which it appears, it is so masterly a portrait of Johnson that it deserves to be reproduced hereafter, uniform with the other Essays of its author.

The anonymous editor of the "Boswell Letters" knows very little of Johnson or Boswell, or still less of the period in which they flourished. His connecting narratives are too often inappropriate, while the *points* which call for explanation are too frequently let go by without any notice at all. Thus he condemns a poem by Boswell which he misnames, and has evidently never seen—"The Cub at Newmarket" (he calls it the *Club*); omits to tell us (unquestionably from ignorance) what Mason wrote to Walpole about Boswell and Temple; and passes over Boswell's account of the death of his friend Ross the actor without an allusion to his name, or to the fact that the interesting memoir of poor Ross in the *Gentleman's Magazine* is from the pen of Boswell. What the members of the Philobiblon Society will say to his invariably calling them (in his vinous flights) the Philobiblon Society we are at a loss to imagine.

We could have wished to have seen these interesting letters without the ignorant and impertinent setting in which they are made to appear. That they contain choice bits, let this column of "Talk" tell to its many readers from China to Peru. There are passages in these letters that will suit every class of subscriber to Mudie's Library.

Here are three little bits about Sir Joshua Reynolds, culled together for Sir Charles Eastlake and Mr. Cotton, of Ivy-bridge:—

Sir Joshua Reynolds told me that Capability Brown's compliment of Nature being low is what he pays upon many occasions.

To get your niece into the situation of a companion and governess is precisely the most difficult thing that can be figured. Sir Joshua, who was by, and has always good sense and observation, lent a word and said, "A companion must be one whom one chooses from one's own knowledge. Nobody says to another 'Get me a companion.'"

My spirits have been still more sunk by seeing Sir Joshua Reynolds almost as low as myself. He has for more than two months past had a pain in his blind eye, the effect of which has been to occasion a weakness in the other, and he broods over the dismal apprehension of becoming quite blind. He has been kept so low as to diet that he is quite relaxed and desponding. He who used to be looked upon as perhaps the happiest man in the world is now as I tell you. I force myself to be a great deal with him, to do what is in my power to amuse him. Your friend Miss Palmer's assiduity and attention to him in every respect is truly charming.

Here is something true enough about Mason's "Gray," and his own "Boswell":—

Mason's "Life of Gray" is excellent, because it is interspersed with letters which show us the man. His life by Whitehead is not a life at all; for there is neither a letter nor a saying from first to last. I am absolutely certain that my mode of biography, which gives not only a *history* of Johnson's visible progress through the world, and of his publications, but a *view* of his mind in his letters and conversations, is the most perfect that can be conceived, and will be more of a life than any work that has ever yet appeared.

Dr. Hawtrey will like to read *this* to the Head Masters and Fellows of Eton:—

I go to Eton to-morrow with my eldest son. I was there last week to prepare matters, and to my agreeable surprise found myself highly considered there: was asked by Dr. Davies, the Head Master, to dine at the Fellows, and made a creditable figure. I certainly have the art of making the most of what I have. How should one who has had only a Scotch education be quite at home at Eton? I had my classical quotations very ready.

What will Mr. Macculloch and Dr. William Smith exclaim when they read what follows?—

Adam Smith, too, is now of our club. It has lost its select merit. I have not looked at Gibbon's *Defence*, and I hear nothing of the publication of his second volume. He is an ugly, affected, disgusting fellow, and poisons our literary club to me.

Bath and James Quin are for ever inseparable. Here is a good and true saying of Quin, and not less true a description by Boswell of his own peculiar talents:—

I was delighted with Bath. It was consolatory to see that there was really a place in the world to which one may retire, and be calm, placid, and cheerful: such is my notion of Bath, and I believe it is a general notion. Quin said it was the cradle of age, and a fine slope to the grave. I will not attempt a description of Bath; I have no pencil for visible objects; I can only paint the varieties of mind, of *l'esprit*.

Hark to what Boswell himself relates of his own father and Dr. Johnson. Would not Sir Walter Scott have enjoyed the following?—

My father is most unhappily dissatisfied with me. My wife and I dined with him on Saturday. He did not salute her, though he had not seen her for three months; nor did he so much as ask her how she did, though she is advanced in pregnancy. I understand he fancies that if I had married another woman I might not only have had a better portion with her, but might have been kept from what he thinks idle and extravagant conduct. He harps on my going over Scotland with a brute (think how shockingly erroneous!), and wandering (or some such phrase) to London.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Monckton Milnes (rich in MS. Boswelliana) we are enabled to publish, for the first time, and from his "Folium Reservatum," the following anecdote, as told by Boswell himself, in his unpublished "Journal":—

The Earl of Dumfries was a hard-hearted, unfeeling father. His son, Lord Crichton, had gone to Edinburgh, foolishly, as he thought. He died there, and his corpse was brought home to be buried in the family vault. As the Earl saw the hearse from the window, he said, "Ay, ay, Charles! thou wentest to Edinburgh without an errand—I think thou hast got one to bring thee back again." My father, who was always averse to my going to London, often told this story before me.

Another story from the same MS. source, and we have done:—

Hall, the author of "Crazy Tales," said he could not bear David Hume for being such a monarchial dog. "Is it not shocking," said he, "that a fellow who does not believe in a God should believe in a king?"

As for the editor we must feel for him under Mr. Croker's critical knife.

Mr. Thackeray is travelling southwards with his caravan of the Four Georges, and gossips for an hour about George I. and the Duchess of Kendal on Tuesday next, at the Marylebone Institute. He will have a crowded and yet a select audience.

In enlarging the Church of St. James, Piccadilly, they have taken down the well-known tablet which marked the grave of Tom D'Urfey:—

TOM D'URFEY,
Died Feb'y 26th, 1723.

We sought for it in vain the other day. No one knew where it was. Here, we said to ourselves, was a tablet to which the poet of the "Pleasures of Memory" was in the habit of paying periodical visits—so fertile was it with pleasant associations—destroyed, no doubt, by the decree of some careless churchwarden, and by the ruthless hammer of some unthinking mason. We trembled, as we surveyed the well-known locality, for Poets' Corner; but our fears were, we have since found, without foundation. Mr. Churchwarden Rice has promised a constant contributor to this column that Tom's tablet shall be replaced as near as possible to Tom's remains. Thank you, Mr. Churchwarden Rice.

THE COURT.

The Court has returned from its retirement at Osborne to Windsor Castle for the Christmas holidays; and the note of Royal hospitality has been already sounded in an announcement that the usual dramatic entertainments at the Castle, postponed in consequence of the demise of the Prince of Leiningen, will commence on the 15th proximo.

Her Majesty has not received company since her return beyond his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge and the two young Princes of Leiningen, who are staying with the Duchess of Kent, at Frogmore.

The Queen and the Princess and Princesses of the Royal family have taken their accustomed daily exercise in the Castle grounds; and Prince Albert has enjoyed the sport of shooting in the Royal preserves, in company with the Duke of Cambridge, who left the Castle on Wednesday.

Lady Macdonald has succeeded the Duchess of Atholl as Lady in Waiting to her Majesty. The Hon. Beatrice Byng has arrived as Maid of Honour in Waiting, and Lord Rivers and Major-General Berkeley Drummond as the Lord and Groom in Waiting.

Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cambridge and the Princess Mary paid a visit to the Duchess of Gloucester on Wednesday, at Gloucester House.

The Duke and Duchess of Richmond are entertaining a large family circle at Goodwood during the holidays.

The Duchess of Atholl has arrived at the St. George's Hotel, from Windsor Castle.

The Countess of Gainsborough and family have left town for Exton Hall, Rutlandshire.

Viscount and Viscountess Palmerston are entertaining a select circle of friends at Broadlands.

Lady Margaret Beaumont gave birth to a daughter on the 19th inst., in Piccadilly.

Lady Frances Lloyd was confined of a daughter on the 18th inst.

The Bishop of Jamaica, Dr. Aubrey G. Spencer (formerly Bishop of Newfoundland), has addressed a pastoral letter to his clergy, taking farewell of them, on the ground of continued ill-health.

The *Wiener Zeitung* states that there was "public mourning" at Odessa during two days for the late Prince Woronzoff.



HER MAJESTY'S VISIT TO THE ARCTIC SHIP "RESOLUTE" IN COWES HARBOUR.



RECEPTION OF HER MAJESTY BY CAPTAIN HARTSTEIN AND THE OFFICERS OF THE "RESOLUTE."

VISIT OF HER MAJESTY TO THE ARCTIC SHIP
"RESOLUTE."

A NEW interest has been imparted to the above vessel by the visit which her Majesty was graciously pleased to pay to this memorial of Arctic enterprise. Before describing this graceful act of Royalty, it may be as well to recall the circumstances under which the lost ship was found. The *Resolute* was frozen in among the icebergs in lat. 77 N., and in May, 1854, her officers and crew finally abandoned her, leaving their effects on board. She had remained in the icebergs sixteen months, when a large portion of the ice in which she was imbedded becoming detached from the mass by a thaw, it floated off with her, leaving her at the mercy of the wind and waves, and hurrying her out to remote seas, where in lat. 6 deg. 30 sec., and long. 64 deg., she was found in the month of September, 1855, by the American whaler *George Henry*, commanded by Captain Buddington. She had then drifted over the wilderness of waters about 1200 miles from the spot where she was abandoned. Captain Buddington and a part of his crew approached her over the ice and took up their quarters within her. They found "a deathlike

silence and a dread repose," for, except themselves, there was not a living creature on board. The ship was found not to have sustained any very material damage. The ropes, indeed, were hard and inflexible as chains; the rigging was stiff, and cracked at the touch; the tanks in the hold had burst, the ironwork was rusted, the paint was discoloured with bilge-water, and the mast and topgallantmast were shattered; but the hull had escaped unscathed, and the ship was not hurt in any vital part. There were three or four feet of water in the hold, but she had not sprung a leak. The cordage was coiled in neat little circles on the deck, after the fashion of English seamen, and the sails were frozen to such stiffness as to resemble sheets of tin. Several thousand pounds of gunpowder were found on board, somewhat deteriorated in quality, yet good enough for such purposes as firing salutes. Some of the scientific instruments were injured by exposure and rust, but others were in excellent condition. For a year and four months no human foot had trod the deck of that deserted ship; yet, amid those savage solitudes, where man there was none, and might never be, the pilot's wheel made a stern proclamation, for around it were inscribed in letters of brass the immortal words, "England expects that every man will do his duty." Captain Buddington remained

on board till the thaw set in, and then, when the ice began to soften, he shaped his course to New London, Connecticut, where he arrived in December, 1855. The *Resolute* was removed without delay to New York, and what followed is so honourable to the American Government, and speaks so highly for their courtesy towards this country, that, though it has been often published, it may well be repeated, for it should be universally known throughout England. A sum of 40,000 dollars was appropriated, with the concurrence of the Senate and Congress, for the purpose of purchasing the *Resolute* from the whalers, the English Government having waived all claim to her; and it was determined that she should be repaired and refitted with the utmost care, with the design of restoring her to the Queen in at least as good a condition as she was at the time when the exigencies of their situation compelled her crew to abandon her. With such completeness and attention to detail has this work been performed, that not only has everything found on board been preserved, even to the books in the Captain's library, the pictures in his cabin, and some musical instruments belonging to other officers, but new British flags have been manufactured in the Brooklyn navy-yard, to take the place of those which had rotted during the long time she



HER MAJESTY INSPECTING THE CHARTS IN THE CABIN OF THE "RESOLUTE."

was without a living soul on board. From stem to stern she has been repainted; her sails and much of her rigging are entirely new; the muskets, swords, telescopes, nautical instruments, &c., which she carried have been cleaned and put in perfect order. Nothing has been overlooked or neglected that was necessary to her complete and thorough renovation; yet everything that has been cleaned or repaired has, with excellent taste on the part of those who superintended the regulations, been restored to its original position. As regards the arrangement of the furniture and the situation of each particular article, the Queen saw the Captain's cabin on Wednesday week in the precise state in which it was when the crew forsook the ship. In fact, the ship is—so to express it—a floating Pompeii, and everything comes to light just as it was left. Captain Kellett's epaulettes are lying in a tin box on the table. Lieutenant Pim's musical-box occupies its old place on the top of a "whatnot." The "logs" of the various officers are in their respective recesses on the book-shelves. The portmanteau containing the officers' great-coats is thrown heedlessly on a chair. On the wall hangs the picture of a ballet-girl pirouetting on the tips of her toes; and, as if in mockery of domestic comfort, a little kettle that should be singing songs "full of family glee" does nothing of the kind, but sits upon a fireless stove as cold as a stone, and as silent.

After the withdrawal of the Royal party, an elegant *déjeuner* was served in the ward-room, at which the following toasts and sentiments were given among others:—"The Queen and the Royal Family," "The President of the United States," "The Union Jack and the Star-spangled Banner," "The Health of Mr. Cornelius Grinnell," "The future success of the *Resolute*, and may she be again employed in prosecuting the search of Sir John Franklin and his comrades." This last sentiment was proposed by Captain Higgins, seconded by Mr. Grinnell, and evoked cordial applause.

Captain Hartstein was invited by the Queen to dine and spend the night at Osborne, and all the officers were invited to visit the grounds at Osborne—a privilege of which they availed themselves.

The Queen on her visit was accompanied by Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, and the Princess Alice. Her Majesty drove to the ship in an open carriage drawn by four grey ponies. The Queen was attended by the Duchess of Atholl and the Hon. Miss Cathcart, and in her suite were Sir James Clark, M.D., Major-General Bouvier, Colonel H. C. B. Phipps, Captain De Ros, Mr. Gibbs, and Dr. Becker. The officers of the ship present were—Lieutenant C. H. Wells, Lieutenant E. E. Stone, Lieutenant Hunter Davidson, Dr. R. T. Macown, and Dr. Otis, acting secretary. The following gentlemen were also present:—Mr. Croskey, Consul for the United States; Chevalier Vincent Pappalardo, Vice-Consul; Mr. Harding, Vice-Consul for the United States at Cowes; Captain Higgins, commander of the United States' mail-ship *Hermann*; and Mr. Cornelius Grinnell, son of Mr. Henry Grinnell, of New York, the projector of the American Arctic expedition. Vice-Admiral Sir George Seymour, K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth, Flag-Captain G. H. Seymour, and Flag-Lieutenant Malcomb, left Portsmouth at an early hour in the *Fire Queen*, to make the necessary arrangements for the Royal reception. Her Majesty's steam-ship *Retribution* came up from Spithead to fire the Royal salutes, and several gun-boats and dispatch-vessels, together with her Majesty's yachts *Fairy* and *Elfin*—the latter under the command of Captain the Hon. James Denman—were stationed in the roads.

On Saturday last Captain Hartstein and officers of the *Resolute*, accompanied by the American Consul, Mr. Vincent Pappalardo, dined with the Commander-in-Chief, Vice-Admiral Sir George Seymour, at Portsmouth. A select number of British officers were also invited to do honour to the occasion. The Queen's photographic artist, by Royal request, went on board the *Resolute* on Saturday morning to group the likenesses of the American officers on the quarter-deck of the vessel. Several ladies, who happened to be on board as visitors at the moment, were also grouped with the officers; the whole forming a most interesting and beautiful picture.

Captain Hartstein received an invitation to visit Viscount Palmerston at Broadlands, where he went on Monday, in the company of Vice-Admiral Sir George Seymour, and was received with much cordiality.

In the evening Captain Hartstein entertained a numerous circle of gentlemen, Arctic voyagers and others, on board the *Resolute*. Lieut. Bedford Pim was present: he was previously acquainted with Captain Hartstein, and the meeting between them was cordial in the extreme.

On Tuesday the only public dinner the officers could attend in England was given by the Mayor and Corporation of Portsmouth. On Christmas-day the American officers all dined with Lady Franklin.

Numerous invitations have been given to the American officers from all quarters—more than they can possibly accept. Their courtesy and kindness to the hundreds of visitors on board the *Resolute* have cemented the friendly feelings so happily conceived when the American Congress determined to restore the *Resolute* to the British Government.

The *Resolute* is an object of much interest in the port. Among the stores found in her were several puncheons of fine old rum, which had been put on board in prime condition at the outset of her career from Woolwich. One of these puncheons had been sent by Captain Hartstein to Prince Albert, as a relic of the *Resolute*.

Our illustrations of this most interesting event consist, first, of her Majesty's arrival from Osborne at the landing-stage at East Cowes, alongside which the *Resolute* lay moored. The Queen, Prince Albert, Prince of Wales, Princess Royal, and Princess Alice, attended by the Duchess of Atholl and Miss Cathcart, arrived exactly at ten o'clock in open pony carriages, and were received by Vice-Admiral Seymour and other officers. The party immediately proceeded on board, and were received by Captain Hartstein and the officers of the *Resolute*. This is the second subject of our illustrations. After Captain Hartstein's manly and eloquent address, the Royal party remained for some time on deck in conversation with that gentleman and the other officers of the ship, and then proceeded to inspect the vessel below, where Captain Hartstein explained to her Majesty from the charts the course of the Arctic Expedition: this forms the third subject.

The Queen's reception must have been most gratifying to her and all present. The crew of the *Resolute* manned the bulwarks and loudly cheered the Royal party. Her Majesty's private yachts the *Fairy* and *Elfin* were in attendance, gallily dressed, under the command of the Hon. T. Denman, the Commander of the Royal yacht. The *Retribution* steam-frigate was moored at the mouth of the Medina, and fired Royal salutes on her Majesty's arrival and departure. On leaving the *Resolute* her Majesty invited Captain Hartstein to dine and spend the night at Osborne.

THE REPRESENTATION OF GREENWICH.—A deputation, composed of electors of the borough of Greenwich, headed by Mr. A. R. Bristow, attended at the town residence of Lieutenant-General Sir William Codrington, in Eaton-square, on Tuesday, and presented him with a requisition, numerously signed by all classes of the constituency resident in Greenwich, Woolwich, and Deptford, to allow himself to be put in nomination as a candidate for the seat in the representation recently vacated by the retirement of Mr. Peter Rolt. The gallant General promptly responded to the invitation, and immediately issued an address to the constituency.

THE SEWAGE QUESTION.—We understand that a Treasury Warrant has been issued, appointing Lord Portman; H. Ker Seymour, Esq., M.P.; J. K. Brunel, Esq., C.E.; Robert Rawlinson, Esq., C.E.; Professor J. T. Way; J. B. Laves, Esq.; and Southwood Smith, Esq., M.D., to inquire into the most effectual means of distributing the sewage of towns, and of applying it to beneficial and profitable uses.

A WEALTHY AND GENEROUS POET.—Many a literary home has been made brighter this Christmas time by the noble sympathy of John Kenyon, the poet, whose death we recently announced. The poet was rich as he was genial. Scarcely a man or woman distinguished in the world of letters with whom he was familiar has passed unremembered in his will; and some poets and children of poets are endowed with a princely munificence. Amongst those who have shared most liberally in this harvest of good will we are happy to hear that Mr. and Mrs. Browning receive £10,000, Mr. Proctor (Barry Cornwall) £6000, and Dr. Southey a very handsome sum, we think £8000. We hear that there are about eighty legacies, many of them of the old literary friends of the deceased poet.—*Athenæum*.—[We are glad to learn upon the above authority that our correspondent in the "Town and Table Talk" of last week was in error.]

THE BURGLARY NEAR SHEFFIELD.—On Tuesday six men were brought up before the Sheffield bench of magistrates on suspicion of being concerned in a daring burglary at Manor Oaks, the residence of Mr. W. Bradley, brewer—particulars of which we gave in a recent number. Mr. Bradley, with Mrs. Bradley and the servant, had seen the prisoners in company of a number of other men in the prison yard, but they could only identify two of them, who were remanded for further examination.

THE CAPITAL CONVICTS AT MAIDSTONE.—The execution of the two prisoners, Dedea Redanias and Thomas Mansell, who were convicted of murder at the late assizes for the county of Kent, has been fixed to take place on Thursday, January 1.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

PREIS.—No men are so well adapted for Club use as these called "The Staunton Chessmen." For a club of the description you are about to provide over, six sets, with boards to match, will be ample to begin with; and, as each box contains a treatise on the game, you will be set up with boards, men, and library sufficient for twenty members. Apply to the manufacturers, Messrs. Jaques, of Hatton-garden.

CHESS.—We have not space to reprint the Indian Problem.

GERMANICS.—According to the Dec. No. of *La Révue*, just arrived, the games in the premier match between Messrs. Harrwitz and De Rivière stand as follows:—

Harrwitz 3
De Rivière 2

The terms of the contest are that whichever party scores seven games wins the match.

H. A. D. S.—The Queen cannot, fortunately, move as a Knight does.

F. L. R.—The first number of the new American Chess Magazine is advertised for the 1st of January, 1857. Subscriptions are receivable by the London publishers, Messrs. Trevelyan, of Paternoster-row.

DAVIS.—Since penning the notice last week to "R. M." we have received an intimation from the editor of *La Révue* that the non-delivery of the last two Numbers is the fault of the Post-office authorities—whether French or English he knows not. We have also received an account of some highly-interesting blindfold games lately played by Mr. Harrwitz against the Duke of Brunswick, Count Casabianco, and other personages, at a soirée given by Prince Napoleon. A selection from these parties, and from the games in the match between M.M. Harrwitz and De Rivière, will be given in an early Number.

DEBROC.—1. The great Chess meeting at Birmingham is to be held in the spring. 2. At the last assembly held in Leamington, three matches were left unfinished: that between three English and three foreign players, the one between Oxford and Manchester, and that between Nottingham and Worcester.

A MEMBER, &c. There can be no second opinion on the subject. A professional player engaged by or on behalf of a Chess-club, solely for the purpose of affording practice to the members of that Club, is bound to play equally with those who are stronger than he is and with those who are weaker—in the one case he can take odds, and in the other give them; but in no case is he justified in refusing to play with any member of the Club for whom his services are engaged. In a parallel position in Paris Mr. Harrwitz, it is observable, plays chivalrously with all comers.

ADMIER.—The Solution of J. B.'s Enigma, 1016, is as follows:—

WHITE. BLACK.
1. B to Kt 6th K moves
2. B to K R 5th K to Q R 3rd or 5th; or Q B 3rd or 5th
3. B mates.

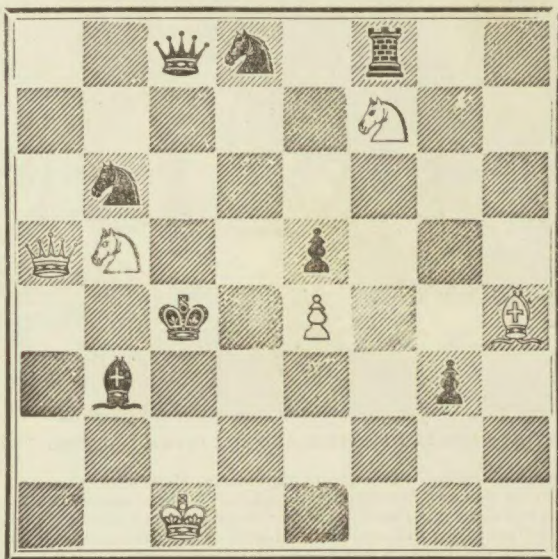
J. RUSSELL.—You are somewhat wide of the mark. The key-moves in the Solution of Enigma 1010 are—1. K to Kt 5th (ch); 2. B to K B 7th (ch); 3. K takes Kt (discovering ch); and, as Black must take the Rook, White is stalemated, and the game drawn. Black can vary his play, but the result is always the same.

D. G. BEIDAN.—The key-moves to solve Enigma 1017 are—1. Q to K B 3rd (ch); 2. R to K 4th, &c.

PROBLEM No. 671.

By A. LULMAN.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in four moves.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

The only noteworthy feature in the racing world during the last few days has been the sale of Cossack to the French Government for, it is said, £1500.

The elegant Sultan was not sold at Lord Anglesey's sale this week, and the other fourteen lots only averaged seventy-four guineas—of whom the Neasham filly (500 guineas), who won the recent yearling race at Shrewsbury, beating six, was the prima donna. This season has not been one of unusually high prices. Certainly 1100 guineas and 1000 guineas are said to have been paid for a yearling and a foal respectively, by private contract; but 910 guineas for a colt, and 720 guineas for a filly, both of them by Orlando, are the highest hammer bids. The average price at the sales of blood yearlings has been 105 guineas, on 231 lots; whereas the average in 1855 was 117 guineas on 200, and 137 guineas on 182 in the preceding year. With respect to the numerous offers for Blink Bonny, the facts are, we believe, as follows:—Lord Londesborough offered Mr. Tanson 5000 guineas for her after the last Beverley Meeting, which was refused. Since York August the price for her has been 7000 guineas, clogged with the condition that she was to remain in her present owner's hands till after Epsom. The Yorkshiremen state that it is quite odd to have a Christmas without having a Derby favourite in John Scott's stable; and nothing has transpired as yet to make them pin much faith on Colonel.

Mr. Jardine's greyhounds averaged 18 guineas a piece; and Mustard (41 guineas) and Mulligatawny (35 guineas), the two highest-priced lots, fell to the nod of the same lover of the leash. Mazourka, a nine-months-old daughter of old Mocking Bird, fetched 32 guineas, and is remarkably promising. Lord Sefton and the Sackcloth blood have been holding their own over the plains of Altcar; and Mr. Borron has been successful with the Blue-Light blood as Mr. Randall with that of Bedlamite. The coursing fixtures are Scorton (open), Caterick, on Tuesday and Wednesday; Nid-side (Yorkshire), on Wednesday; Bellingham (Northumberland), on Thursday; and, we believe, March (open), on the last two days of the week.

It is said that the movement to secure a change in the Game-laws—which will postpone the first day of partridge-shooting nearly a fortnight—gathers no little strength, and that its promoters will endeavour to achieve something this next Session.

We understand that the admirers of "good Izaak Walton" do not intend to do things by halves. His pavement tomb, whose inscription is almost obliterated by the tread of some six generations of admirers is to be duly restored, and a portrait-monument of marble (life-size) is to be erected near it in the Winchester Cathedral nave. The cost, with fixing, is estimated at 100 guineas; and Mr. John Wilson, of 10, Grenville-street, Brunswick-square, will receive subscriptions. It would ill become us to neglect the pleasant memory of this rare old "English worthy."

Lord Scarborough's huntsman is quite recovered, and he thus makes the third huntsman who has been placed *hors de combat* this season by an accident, and soon appeared in the saddle again. There is a wondrous luck and vitality among this hardy branch of the "scarlets," and we believe that before many more weeks have elapsed we shall hear of Joe Maiden once more gallantly cheering on the North Staffordshire to many a sinking fox. We hear that the York fair, on which the dealers generally rely not a little for recruiting the studs of their hunting customers, has been sadly dull, and the horses few, and those few most moderate.

THE FRENCH IN CHINA.—M. de Concy, French Consul-General in China, has received orders to demand reparation from the Emperor of China for the death by violence of the Abbé Chapdelaine, who fell a martyr to his religion. This demand will be supported by the French squadron charged to compel the Emperor of China to allow a representative of France to reside at Peking—a privilege which Russia alone has hitherto enjoyed.—*Courrier de Lyon*.

GOLD ROBBERY ON A FRENCH RAILWAY.—The *Moniteur de la Côte d'Or* of Dijon states that, at the beginning of last week, a parcel of 16,000 fr. in specie, which was being transported from the office of the Messageries Générales to the railway station, disappeared before arriving at the latter. Three individuals suspected of the theft have been since arrested.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

Her Majesty is about to confer the Military Grand Cross of the Bath upon his Royal Highness the Prince of Prussia, on the completion of his fiftieth year of military service; and Sir Colin Campbell has been selected for the honour of investing the Prince with the insignia of the order.

The Emperor and Empress of the French and the Prince of Prussia honoured the Théâtre Français with their presence last Saturday night. They were very warmly received.

The three eldest daughters of the Duke and Duchess of Montpensier have been decorated with the cordon of the ladies of the Royal Portuguese order of Saint Isabel.

Earl Granville has been appointed Chancellor of the London University, in succession to the Earl of Burlington, resigned.

Prince Frederick William of Prussia left Paris on Sunday night at twenty minutes to eleven by a special train on the Strasbourg Railway. His Royal Highness was accompanied by Prince Napoleon to the terminus, where the Prefects of the Seine and of Polce, several high authorities, and some of the directors of the company were assembled.

It is said that the Queen and King of Spain intend to visit Andalusia in the spring, and that the Palace of San Telmo is being prepared for them.

Mr. Sidney Herbert, M.P., will become the owner of a considerable amount of property in Odessa and some other parts of Southern Russia, through the death of Prince Woronzow, whose sister was the mother of the right hon. gentleman.

The Duke and Duchess d'Aumale and the Princess de Salerno, all travelling incognito, have left Seville to visit Cordova, Granada, and Malaga; after which they intend to embark for Sicily.

On the 1st of January, on the occasion of the new year, the French Emperor will receive in the morning the diplomatic corps and the constituted bodies. On the 2nd the Emperor and Empress will hold a grand reception, at nine o'clock in the evening, of the ladies of the diplomatic corps.

The Grand Duke Michael of Russia, travelling under the name of Count Michailoff, passed through Breslau last week on his way via Dresden to Baden, in order to join his bride.

Four of the greatest names in Lombardy are about to be raised to the dignity of Princes of the Empire—viz., the Counts Archinto and Borromeo, Duke Scotti, and the Marquis Busca.

Lord Palmerston has granted to Mrs. Laurie, the widow of the author of the well-known work on Foreign Exchanges and other subjects connected with commerce, £100 from the Royal Bounty Fund.

The King of the Belgians has addressed a manifesto to all the communes of the kingdom, thanking them for the brilliant demonstrations with which they celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his reign.

The Commissioners for inquiring into the charges for superannuation, and the deduction from the salaries of the civil servants of the Crown, have appointed Mr. Maitland, Secretary to the Examiners of Civil Service, to act as Secretary to their Commission.

Charles Theodore of Bavaria, brother of the Empress of Austria, is about to enter the Austrian navy with the rank of captain.

Reports are again rife of a crisis in the Austrian Ministry. M. von Bruck, the Minister of Finance, is spoken of as likely to retire.

Mr. Andrews has resigned the office of Mayor of Southampton, and paid the fine for so doing, preparatory to his candidature for the representation of the town.

The Count de Montemolin is expected to leave Naples shortly for London.

A French Cabinet Minister's courier arrived on the 11th inst. in St. Petersburg, with very important despatches for the Ambassador, and another took his departure immediately after for Paris. The Duke of Ossuna, Ambassador Extraordinary from the Queen of Spain, arrived on the same day in the Russian capital, with the whole of his suite.

The tenantry of Mr. G. Lane Fox, of Bramham Park, Yorkshire, subscribed upwards of a thousand pounds for a portrait of that gentleman, and last week it was presented to Mrs. Fox in the presence of a large assembly of the subscribers and others.

Letters from Venice say that the Empress of Austria had been indisposed, and it was thought doubtful if she would be able to accompany the Emperor to Milan, and, in any case, that the Emperor's visit to Milan was likely to be much curtailed in consequence.

General Galakhoff, Grand Master of Police at St. Petersburg, has received eight months' leave of absence, to visit foreign countries, and will be replaced during that period by General Patkal.

Mr. A. N. Shaw, of Newhall, Fortrose, has issued an address to the electors of the Northern Burghs, stating that it is his intention to offer himself as a candidate for their suffrages at the next general election, in opposition to the sitting member, Mr. Laing.

M. Rouland, French Minister of Public Instruction, has increased the pension of Jasmin, the Provençal poet, to 1800fr. a year. In a letter to the Minister of Finance, who had solicited the increase, M. Rouland says that he had accorded it, not only as a tribute to Jasmin's talent, but as an acknowledgment of his numerous acts of charity to the poor.

The Dean of Canterbury, who was attacked with paralysis a fortnight since, still remains in a very precarious condition.

M. Lamartine has sent a circular to each of the many thousand subscribers to his monthly work, the *Cours Familier de Littérature*, asking for a renewal of their subscriptions for the second year. M. de Lamartine has recovered from his late illness, and intends going to Paris for the winter.

Dr. Francis Lieber has retired from his professorship of History and Political Economy in the College of South Carolina—a station which he has occupied for twenty years.

The Secretary of the Athenæum Club denies that Redpath, of the Great Northern Railway, was ever a member of the club, or even a candidate for election.

The Imam of Muscat has refused tribute to Persia, declaring that the Sultan is his sole Suzerain, and to him he owes fealty and allegiance.

Austria is going to submit a commercial code of her own to the commission about to assemble on the part of entire Germany, in opposition to the Prussian.

Two eminent Carlist officers—General Forcadell, formerly second in command to Cabrera; and Colonel Lopez—have taken advantage of the recent amnesty to return to Spain.

Donna Anna, Infanta of Portugal, aunt of the late Queen, has arrived in Madrid. Her Royal Highness was travelling under the name of the Countess de Barcellos.

On the 13th inst. a solemn "Te Deum" was performed at Vienna, at the Church of the Franciscans, to return thanks for the late providential escape of the King of Naples. Among the persons present were the Empress-Mother; the Archduchesses Sophia, Elizabeth, and Maria; the Archdukes Charles, Ferdinand, William, Leopold, Henry, and Maximilian d'Este; the Ministers, the diplomatic body, the staff of the garrison, and the municipal authorities.

The list of shareholders liable, in the case of the Commercial and General Life Assurance Company, to pay off its debts has been settled, and a call of about 10s. will have, it is understood, to be made.

"Concessions-Ukase" for the projected Russian railroads will not be granted until the 12th Jan., the first day of the Russian New Year.

An influential association has been established at Leeds for the purpose of promoting the amendment and modification of the laws relating to beerhouses and houses of public entertainment.

The ruins of a Roman theatre have been discovered at Triguères, near Montargis, in France. It is seventy yards long from the back of the pit to the stage, and sixty yards wide. It could have easily held 10,000 spectators.

The Emperor of Austria, during his recent stay at Laybach, on his way to Venice, gave orders that the draining of the marshes near the town—which was commenced in 1820, but abandoned—should be resumed and carried on with great activity.

In the last term the number of attorneys admitted was 100, and in the forthcoming term the number applying to be admitted is 123.

At Hamburg there has been a further advance in the rate of discount. About a fortnight back it had receded to 4½, but it is now again at 6 per cent.

At Constantinople on the 8th inst. the cold was most intense, with frost and snow, a circumstance rare in that country so early in the season.

A convention has been concluded between the French authorities and a French steam company for the introduction into French Guiana of from 500 to 600 Chinese emigrants.

The corn trade at Odessa is completely stagnant, and everything is enormously dear.

In Hong-Kong a Government gazette is published, and there is at least one newspaper, the *China Mail*, which serves to diffuse valuable information concerning China in Europe, and probably, also, helps to diffuse information concerning Europe, in a very limited degree, amongst the Chinese. Hong-Kong has sometimes been a place of refuge for the persecuted on the mainland, and, with its toleration and justice, is always, before the eyes of the Chinese, presenting an example of the newest European civilisation. From us they have learned something of steam, and, probably, have seen a telegraph. Hong-Kong is in constant communication with England, and the mails are now transmitted backwards and forwards in about forty days.



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with the possession of a few shillings, and, if offended, yell out in wild uproar, "May God curse the man who works for the Pelingay," or some equally complimentary serenade; whilst the dark-eyed, dirty daughters of Irak-Arabi rattle their tongues and tap their blue lips in a shrieking accompaniment. Still they are as children in the hands of a firm and considerate man. The tents of the explorers have to be pitched in the lank bare plain far from any town whence the commonest necessities of life can be procured, and several miles even from the river. There is nothing but desert and desolation on every side—not a blade of grass, no twitter of bird, rustle of leaf, or gushing brook;—all is arid, parched up, sere and yellow, as though a curse were upon the land. But, perhaps, the greatest inconvenience there is the recurrence of sand-storms, which sometimes carries everything before them, sweeping on with irresistible violence the minute particles of hot, blinding sand, obliterating every track, obscuring every landmark, and realising in its grandeur Dante's fine couplet:—

Dinanzi polveroso va superbo,
E fa fuggir le fiere e gli pastori.*

There is no security for even a single day against the wandering tribes of Bedoueen, and at night the long howl and wailing scream of countless prowling jackals form no very agreeable lullaby; but, on the other hand, the stars shine there with the same glorious brilliancy as when they fired the old Chaldean shepherds, and there is an interest attached to those memorable spots proportionate to their utter desolation. There lived those old patriarchs with their flocks

bodies were deposited some small articles—glass bottles of most beautiful form and quality, beads, and in a few cases gold ornaments. Figure 5 represents a pair of earrings found there. They differ but slightly from similar modern trinkets. Figure 6 shows a small clay figure frequently found in these vaults.

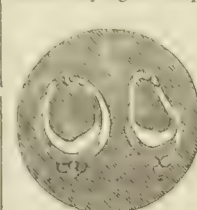


FIG. 5.—EAR-RINGS.

With nearly every skeleton two small water-vases were found (Sketch 3, No. 2). At the Mughyer the bodies were doubled up on their sides, laid on small platforms of earth, and covered by what we can liken to nothing else but large dish covers. Under each of these coverings two water-vases were placed, and an earthen plate with dates—the stones of which still remained when the bodies were discovered. In some few cases, here and also at Wurka, a thin gold mask was found on the face of the skull, which seemed to grin in mockery behind it at the vain attempt thus made to preserve the features from decay.



FIG. 6.—CLAY FIGURE.

Standing on the mounds of Wurka, and looking eastwards, we see the ruins of Sinkereh quivering in the mirage (Fig. 7). They are about fifteen miles distant, and consist of three mounds, called



FIG. 1.—VIEW OF WURKA.

and herds whom we read of in the earliest chapters of the Bible; and there, even now, may be seen amongst the present inhabitants the same manners and customs which are recorded with them. The Arab women sit in the dust at the doors of their tents and bake bread for their visitors; and the girls coming from the wells—straight as spears beneath their well-balanced water-vases—cover their faces as they pass the strangers. The Arab chief rides to meet the travellers with the salutation of peace upon his lips, welcomes them to his tents, sends for a kid to slaughter in their honour, assists them with his own right hand, honours his guests in every conceivable cheap way, and expects to be honoured in return by a very costly present, and is very dissatisfied and surly if he be not so. Apart, however, from the people and all associations, there is a grandeur about the wide barren waste of the desert, who have lived in it can be insensible; it has its parallel only in the boundless ocean and the cloudless unfathomable sky.

From the ruins of Bagdad, situated on a plain, it is not far to the ruins of the city of the Chaldees, and caused water to run in dry places. The mounds are now covered by fragments of broken pottery; and the ancient canals are dried up and choked, though originally extending in a network over the whole country, fertilising the land, and making a garden of what is now a rebuke, in its barrenness, to the rulers and governors. Leaving Babylon to the west, there are no ruins of any great importance till we reach the entrance to the Atidj Marshes: we come there upon a series of mounds called Niffar, which Mr. Loftus partially explored, and whence he was obliged to return to Bagdad, as he was unable to penetrate further southwards. Traversing these mounds, crossing the Shat-el-Abrah, and subsequently the dry bed of the Shat-el-Neel, passing the ruins of Phara, which have never been explored except by Arabs in search of treasure, we, after seven days' journeying from Bagdad, reach the most extensive group of mounds in the country. They are known by the name of Wurka, and are supposed by some geographers to be the Erech of the Scriptures, and by others the ruins of the chief city of the province with which we have been familiar as "Ur of the Chaldees," whence issued the great patriarch Abraham. Four Europeans only, all Englishmen, have succeeded in reaching these interesting mounds:—Messrs. Loftus, Churchill, Boutecher, and Lynch. They are situated 180 miles south of Bagdad, and about eight miles east of the Euphrates. The ridge of earth which marks the line of the ancient wall is six or seven miles in circumference, and incloses three large and several smaller mounds, and large elevated platforms, forming together one vast Necropolis. In every part of the inclosure bodies have been found, buried one on the other to the depth in some cases of fifteen and twenty feet. Outside the walls to some distance are several small mounds, and a large one to the north of the ruins, called Niffageh. All are channelled by deep ravines formed of the winter's rains, covered with nitrous earth, small

inclosure wall embracing all. These are all ravined and strewed with debris, which has doubtless fallen from the main building. Whether this latter was a temple or palace it is now impossible to determine. The front faces the south-west, and is about 175 feet long. The entrance is on the opposite or north-east front. The walls are of burnt brick, and vary in width from twelve to twenty-two feet; the lateral walls of each chamber are invariably the thicker, evidently to resist the thrust of an arched roof, which has now fallen in, filling completely all the chambers, and covering even the sloping sides of the mound which supports the building. The south-west front was coated with plaster, in some cases two and a half inches thick. It remains in fragments, after the lapse of 2500 years, as firm as ever. The architectural arrangement is shown in Fig. 2, which is a sketch of a portion of this building. The seven half-columns, surmounted by a stepped recess, with channels on each side, are repeated seven times along the front. Originally it was all covered with plaster. Our sketch shows the aperture made by the negro above alluded to. No colour was found on any of the plaster, nor was there even space for the gorgeous representations which have been described by the Greek historians as covering the Babylonian buildings. It was at first doubted whether this structure was of so early an age as the Babylonian; but the fact was confirmed by the subsequent discovery, by M. Place at Khorsabad, and by Mr. Loftus at Nimroud, of buildings of unquestioned antiquity precisely similar in their architectural features. For further particulars of this building we refer our readers to a report by Mr. Boutecher sent to the Assyrian Excavation Fund, and to the plans and drawings which accompanied it.

On a small mound opposite the Wusswass a fragment of low wall was uncovered by Mr. Loftus, composed entirely of earthen vases (Sketch 3, No. 3). They were laid horizontally with the apertures outward, and looked like a honeycomb. On another mound he came upon a quantity of plaster ornaments heaped inconspicuously together in a small chamber. They consisted of capitals and bases, chiefly Ionic (Sketch 3, No. 1); geometrical and coloured ornament, friezes, &c. (Sketch 3, No. 4). On the capital, there shown, a head is carved, wearing the large bag-wig so characteristic of the glazed Wurka coffins. The various ornaments formed, possibly, a shrine over the coffin which was discovered at the bottom of the chamber. Near this chamber, a few inches below the surface of the drifting sand, several clay tablets of great interest were found. Though covered with cuneiform writing, they bear Greek seals representing the signs of the Zodiac, and the names of Antiochus and Seleucus; thus bringing down the cuneiform writing to a much later period than had before been even suspected by Babylonian scholars.

The Babylonian records were either impressed on barrel cylinders and deposited in the angles of the building—a discovery due, we believe, to Mr. John Taylor, H. M. Vice-Consul at Busrah—on clay tablets, or else on the bricks which composed the structure. The inscriptions on the bricks, of which we give a specimen (Fig. 4) are generally of a monogrammic character, and consequently much more difficult to decipher. One of the most laborious and successful investigators of the Babylonian writing is Sir H. Rawlinson, whose long residence at Bagdad facilitated his studies. As human ingenuity constructed out of the simple cuneiform these more complicated monogrammic inscrip-

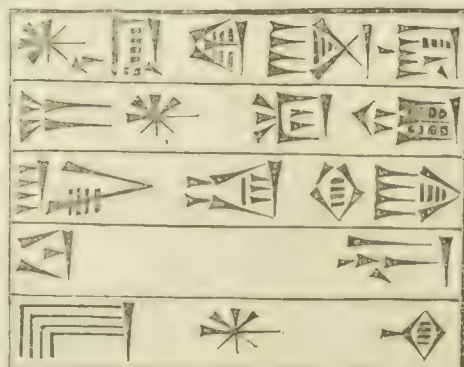


FIG. 4.—MONOGRAMMIC CUNEIFORM INSCRIPTION.

tions, it must also be able eventually to disentangle and decipher it. Each of these Babylonian ruins is celebrated for something peculiar to itself—Tel Sifr for its copper implements, Sinkereh for its tablets, El Mughyer for cylinders and a peculiar mode of burial, Phara for its gems and small cut cylinders, and Wurka for the coffins which we have above slightly alluded to, and specimens of which were engraved in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS at the commencement of 1854. They are generally formed of clay, and covered with a green glaze. The whole of the seven-mile inclosure is more or less packed with coffins or vaults of different kinds. It is impossible to calculate the number there interred. It is sufficient, however, to convince us that the bodies must have been brought from afar to this district, even as the Persians at the present day carry their dead to the sacred shrines of Ali and Hossein at Meshid and Kerbelah. With nearly all these

* Onwards the dust-filled whirlwind sweeps
And, making the savage beasts and sheep herds flee.

FIG. 7.—SINKEREH (FROM WURKA).

respectively the Great Mound; the Red Mound, from the colour of the earth with which it is built; and the Camel Mound, from the resemblance of its outline to that animal. The space between these mounds is occupied by tombs, which have yielded many interesting articles. Figure 8 shows an inscribed clay tablet, encased in a wrapper,



FIG. 8.—TABLET IN A CLAY ENVELOPE. INSCRIBED CLAY LUMP.

also inscribed. Many similarly enveloped tablets were found at Sinkereh, and since Mr. Loftus discovered them, the Assyrian tablets are found to possess the same peculiarity. The example engraved, and many others, are now deposited in the British Museum. Besides the cuneiform impressed writing, there is on this tablet a raised inscription formed by pressing engraved agate cylinders on the clay when moist. This is observable also on the clay-lump engraved by the side of the envelope tablet. Two small holes are visible on each side, possibly for the string which affixed it to some public document. The three



FIG. 9.—CLAY TABLET.

sketches, Figs. 9, 10, and 11, represent three tablets, found also in the tombs at Sinkereh. Each is about four inches long. In the first a man is shown attacking a lion with a kind of hatchet; and a bull, which the



FIG. 10.—CLAY TABLET.

lion has doubtless killed, is stretched beneath him. On the second two men are boxing in true British style, whilst a woman is playing cymbals (?). On the third a lion is swallowing a man. But, perhaps, the most



FIG. 11.—CLAY TABLET.

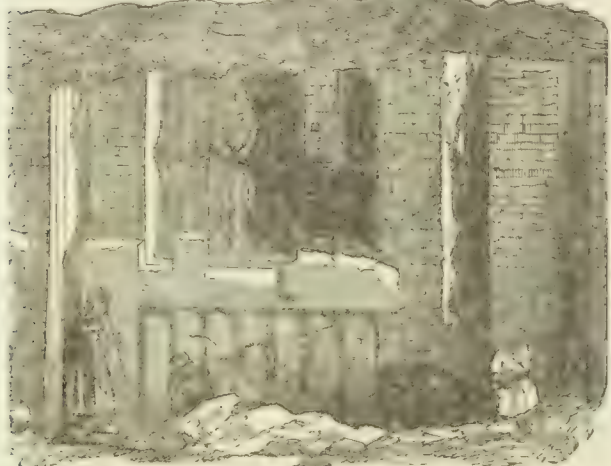


FIG. 2.—PORTION OF WUSSASS, WURKA.

shells, drifting sand, and broken pottery. In the centre of the ruins there is the dry bed of a canal, which originally supplied the city with water. It is supposed to be a continuation of the Shat-el-Neel. It emerges from the ruins at the eastern corner, dividing itself into two branches—one of which goes towards Sinkereh; the other, and main branch, is lost in the desert, and has never been thoroughly and minutely traced. The conically-shaped mound shown in the centre of the sketch (Fig. 1) is called Bouarich, from the reed mats which lie horizontally between the bricks, at intervals of about five feet. On each of the four sides of the mound double buttresses of baked brick were discovered by Mr. Loftus, and a monogrammic inscription was found there, bearing, according to Colonel Rawlinson, the Royal name of Uruk. One of these bricks is exhibited in the Nimroud Room of the British Museum. Mr. Fergusson, in his recently-published "Handbook of Architecture," erroneously calls this mound Bouarich, losing sight of its obvious derivation. We may as well correct another error into which he falls in the same work. In speaking of the small building, faced with terra-cotta cones coloured and arranged in geometrical patterns, which was discovered by Mr. Loftus at Wurka, he attaches it either to the Bouarich mound or to the still more important mound of Wussass, from both of which it is far removed and unconnected.

The second important mound at Wurka seen in our sketch, to the left of the Bouarich, is named Wusswass, after a negro who some years since attempted to force a passage through the solid mass of baked brick which compose the walls. With a perseverance which only a belief in hidden treasure could have inspired him with, he burrowed sixteen feet into the wall, and then gave up the attempt. Had he proceeded two feet further he would have been satisfied that the chamber contained only brick rubbish. The Wusswass building rises from a platform of sun-dried bricks forty or fifty feet above the level of the plains. Around it are ridges and inferior mounds marking the different offices and courts, with an

curious of all the discoveries made by Mr. Loftus at Sinkereh was a tablet bearing a list of square roots. It was deciphered by Col. Rawlinson, who from it established the additional fact that the Babylonians calculated by sixties instead of employing as we do the centesimal notation. Whilst reflecting on this fact, it is as well to remember that sixty is the most divisible number. It admits of eleven divisions, whilst the number 100 will allow of only eight. The great mound at Sinkereh is inclosed by an oval wall and yielded two important cylinders, which identified the city. The inscription records the building of the temple at Larcha, Ellasar of Gen. xiv, 1; *Λαρχα* of the Greeks; sacred to the sun, and bearing the Hamite name of that divinity.

The above is an outline of some of the most important investigations of the ruins of Babylonia, to which we may add the thorough examination of the Birs-Nimroud and its identification by Colonel Rawlinson, as a temple erected to the seven spheres at Barzib (Borsippa). We believe that only three specimens of sculpture have been found in the Babylonian ruins—the lion discovered by Rich in the Kasr at Babylon; a figure of a man found by Mr. Loftus, at Tel Jidr; and a bas-relief at Wurka. But sculpture must never be expected from those alluvial plains. The information gleaned from the clay tablets is not less interesting, and we congratulate the public upon the possession in the British Museum of such valuable records.

"THE RIVERS OF ENGLAND"—A FRESCO, PAINTED BY E. ARMITAGE.

THE allegorical had gone completely out of usage when the requirements of the decoration of the Palace of Westminster led to the revival of a walk of art which has been trodden by the greatest painters of both the northern and the southern schools. Who does not remember the "Venice Crowned by Fame," of Paul Veronese, in illustration of the maritime power of the Britain of that day? and Rubens, with his lazy Scheldt and grape-crowned Rhine?

For a mercantile and maritime nation the rivers are as good a subject for an allegory as any other; in fact, the vast structure of the Palace of Westminster itself is bathed by the most important of all the streams that ocean receives from central England. Thus sang Pope, and so think we:—

Thou, too, great father of the British floods,
With joyful pride survey'st our lofty woods,
Where towering oaks their growing honours rear,
And future navies on thy shores appear;
Not Neptune's self from all her streams receives
A wealthier tribute than to thine he gives.

Little did Julius Caesar imagine when he crossed this river on his route northwards that it was destined in revolving ages to acquire a fame not certainly inferior to that of any of the storied streams of antiquity. Yet so destiny has willed it.

The Thames is the centre figure of the allegorical fresco which we reproduce. An amphora—a symbol of commerce, and sometimes used recumbent in sculpture to signify a river—is here delineated with a half moon to represent the vast amount of wealth which Britain derives from her Oriental possessions. A swan represents the Avon, which, if not the most voluminous of our rivers, is associated with the life of the greatest of our singers and thinkers. The Severn recalls the genial vale of the west, which traverses so vast an extent of fertile meadows and productive minerals. It requires no great power of divination to see that the handle of the coal-pick is representative of the Tyne—that Pactolus of a region more wealth-bringing than those which fable symbolises golden; and the Mersey—if comparatively unsung by the poet in commemoration of rich meadows, hanging woods, and flower-clad banks—is appropriately illustrated by the painter through the masts and rigging seen in the distance, so happily expressive of a river and estuary which takes the highest place of all on the Atlantic seaboard of Europe by its mercantile navy.

We need not prolong the list of rivers. It remains for us to say that we think Mr. Armitage—one of our most rising and capable artists—treats the subject in a very pleasing manner, both as regards colour and composition. We only regret that the picture has not the advantage of a better light.

"THE ADORATION." BY RIBERA (COMMONLY CALLED IL SPAGNOLETTO.)

THE Spanish school has been little known until latterly. Up to the period of the French invasion a multitude of excellent works were shut up in secluded convents. This event, however, created a revolution in the picture market: as regards the Spanish school, and for the last thirty years Spanish pictures have not only been sold at high prices, but the art-history of Spain has been the subject of some of the most agreeable works of English literature, more particularly that of Mr. Stirling, which abounds in laborious research, and is written in a style of chastened strength which may be pronounced classical.

The Madrid Gallery is not only the first general collection in Europe, but of course greatly beyond all the others in the native schools; and we believe that Velasquez can only be known fully at Madrid. Out of Spain Paris has been the chief locality for Spanish pictures—witness the Soult and Aguado collections. The Louvre is now particularly rich in the Spanish school. With the "Assumption" of Murillo most visitors to Paris are well acquainted, and those who have not seen it may well remember the enormous price at which it was acquired—£23,000. Another gem of the Louvre is the picture which we engrave this week, "The Adoration," by Ribera, commonly called Spagnoletto, whose works are much better known than those of other Spanish painters, in consequence of his long residence in Italy.

Ribera has been claimed by Neapolitan writers as a native of the Neapolitan territory, but there appears to be no doubt that he was born in 1588, the year of the Armada, at Xativa, in the kingdom of Valencia. Janzi, quoting the "Antologia di Roma" 1795, and Stirling, after Cean Bermudez, agree in this; which is, moreover, confirmed by a picture of St. Matthew, mentioned by Joachim Sandrart, which has the inscription "Josepe de Ribera espanol de la ciudad de Xativa Reyno de Valencia Academico Romano ano 1630." Ribera was brought up in the school of Ribalta; but, having sailed for Italy, he was fascinated by the new and fashionable school of Caravaggio, who, throwing aside the grace of the Raphaelites, sought to strike by great force and effect—having adopted the colouring of the Venetians, but applied it on the opposite principle of opaque shadows. Instead, too, of generalised costumes, he introduced the imitation of those in existence; hence he became the head of the so-called Naturalistic school; which in Ribera, Velasquez, Valentin, and others, has marked out for itself a distinct place in the history of art, distinguished by merits of a high, although not of the highest, class.

Ribera has not Caravaggio's lurid force of colour, but he is superior to him in drawing, invention, and composition. He comprehended that human sympathy for truth was perfectly compatible with a more careful selection than was shown by the robust, but coarse Caravaggio. Spagnoletto was a great draughtsman: he followed muscles and draperies with hatchings that show science and ingenuity; but his great defect was that he abused his anatomical knowledge, so as to produce pictures of human suffering that essentially violate those canons of art which preclude the disgusting. His famous picture of "Ixion on the Wheel" was bought by a wealthy Dutch burgomaster; but the imitative power of suffering was so strong that it had a most painful effect on the magistrate's wife, and the picture had to be got rid of.

"The Adoration of the Shepherds" is in his more quiet and graceful manner; for he made a tour through Italy as far as Parma, where he was charmed with the suavity of Correggio as he had been with the force of Caravaggio. The Virgin is a calm, dark-eyed southern beauty, and the Shepherds are such peasants as he may have seen in the Huerta of Valencia, or the environs of Naples, with nothing of the ideal or classic type to be found in the Raphaelite school. With such an extraordinary naturalistic power, it is to be regretted that he did not confine himself to *genre* painting, or the delineation of the historical events of his own age. He is, moreover, remarkable as being the master of Salvatore Rosa and Luca Giordano. His career at Naples was a prosperous one, he having been a favourite of the Vice-regal court, but his private character was not of the best, his intrigues having brought Domenichino to his grave.

"The Adoration of the Shepherds" is one of the most celebrated

Sir H. Rawlinson.

works of the master—the most pleasing one that we know. It is the chief ornament of the Cathedral of Valencia, and its duplicate in the Louvre is, beyond question, by the hand of the master.

I LOVE, upon the pictured page,
To trace the Saviour's life on earth,
To mark it in its every stage,—
The shameful death,—the lowly birth.
I love to see, by art revealed,
His miracles by land and sea,
The leper cleansed, the dying healed,
The hungry fed, the bond set free.

I love to see Him teach the crowd
The path to seek, the way to shun;
I seem to hear them shouting loud
Hosannas unto David's Son!
I see Him on the fatal tree,
And weeping o'er Jerusalem;
But, best of all, I love to see
The cradle scene at Bethlehem.

I love to see, with happy face,
The Virgin mother, meek and mild,
Bend down, and lovingly embrace
Her Saviour in her infant child.
I love to watch the babe at rest,
And cradled on his mother's knee;
Or, hanging helpless on her breast,—
Our pattern of humility.

I love to see that good old man,
Joseph, the Virgin mother's friend,
The babe's first earthly guardian,
With watchful care his childhood tend.

I love to see the meek-eyed beast,
The ox and ass, within the stall;
For, He wholies there, seeming least,
Was Maker, and is Lord, of all.

I love to see the shepherds come,
Led thither by an angel band,
With holy terror hushed and dumb,
Silent around the infant stand.
I see them in their humble guise,
Lay reverently on the sod
Their meet and fitting sacrifice,
A lamb, unto the Lamb of God.*

I love to view the Magi three,
All bowing down with one accord,
And worshipping, on bended knee,
The Star of Jacob, Israel's Lord.
I love to see the gifts they bring:
The myrtle—the symbol He must die;
The gold—the tribute to a king;
The frankincense—for God most High.

And thus, upon the pictured page,
My Saviour's life I love to trace;
And, while his acts my heart engage,
Muse o'er the meekness of his face.
And, though I love these scenes each one,—
Think each a very picture gem,—
Yet best I love to dwell upon
The cradle scene at Bethlehem.

CUTHBERT BEDE, B.A.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM LIBRARY—HOW TO USE IT.

ALL waste is deplorable; but none more so than a waste of the means of education. The "woful want" promised in the old proverb exists already with regard to the supply of this article; and it is accompanied, if not caused, by a melancholy degree of "wilful waste." And, among the materials and opportunities so wasted, those afforded by the British Museum Library are, perhaps, more ruthlessly squandered, or, rather, more stupidly buried in a napkin, than any others.

Last year there were added to this national library, according to the official report, 10,404 volumes, 28,211 parts of volumes (including periodicals and newspapers), 647 sheets of atlases and plans, 2617 pieces of music, 1595 parts and numbers of works in progress, and about 1500 sundries—including "broadsides, ballads, play-bills, appeal-cases, and tables of cab-fares." In all, the items added to the national collection during the twelvemonth were in number no fewer than 47,420. Of this large aggregate—in itself a considerable library—it is not too much to say that fully three-fourths will be utterly waste and useless in their present position. They will encumber the Museum shelves, and contribute to crowd a catalogue already more than sufficiently bewildering and chaotic. But they will never be opened by a single reader in the course of the next hundred years.

What renders this waste the more deplorable is the fact that these works, in a great majority of instances, might be turned to most beneficial account elsewhere, under proper management. Nothing is more wanted in London as an educational provision than a supply of really good libraries, established in various localities, stored with a fair supply of standard works, books of reference, &c., free of access, and, above all things, open in the evening. For the swarming thousands of young men who are engaged all day in offices and places of business, but who enjoy some hours of leisure afterwards, with which, in many cases, they hardly know what to do; who have learnt something, and very often feel a strong appetite for higher cultivation of their literary tastes, such institutions would prove most useful. Mechanics' institutes, free libraries, and other establishments of that class, have done something, but far from enough, to supply this want. The species of intellectual provender furnished by the circulating libraries is of the most unsubstantial—not to say unwholesome—character. The needful provision does not now exist, nor do we see how it can be supplied from external sources. But in the Museum ample store is hoarded up beyond reach and use. The walls and strays, the redundances and duplicates of books, now lying idle in Montague House, would furnish at least three large and respectable libraries containing almost every work of value in the English language, besides many of the best foreign publications; and which, if judiciously dispersed in different quarters of the metropolis would attract and benefit large circles of readers who, from distance or pre-occupation, can at present never enjoy the sight of a Museum book.

The character of the national library has of late years undergone a complete transformation. In its origin, as composed of some private collections of works bequeathed to the nation for the encouragement and service of learning, the Museum contained what was essentially a "scholar's library." The books were valuable for their antiquity, their rarity, their cost, or their contents. It was fit that a library so composed should be reserved principally for the use of the student, the author, the antiquary, and the man of letters. It was prudent, also, that works, of which many were costly and some unique, should be exposed to no risk from conflagration. The library was, therefore, most properly opened under conditions and during hours which practically rendered it inaccessible to the great mass of the metropolitan public; and especially to all those of every rank who were occupied, with few interruptions, every working day in the year. Of late, however, since Acts of Parliament gave the Museum authorities those rights which Mr. Panizzi enforces so stringently, the character of the library has altogether changed. It is no longer a collection of selected works, but an *omnium gatherum* to which every printed volume, newspaper, periodical, or fly-sheet, which may issue from the prolific press of Great Britain and Ireland, as well as large piles of similar matter from other countries, are consigned, month after month, in almost overwhelming confusion. With these additions, which grow vaster every year, the library has ceased to belong to the "scholar" tribe. It contains a constantly augmenting infusion of current and popular literature, including a large number of mere reprints of books already on its shelves, and leaving out of the question some tons of absolute rubbish—for all of which, nevertheless, room must be found in the bookcases, and entries made in the catalogue, to the dire perplexity of all searchers through that wonderful labyrinth.

From these supplemental books, which are useless and worse than useless in Montague-street, we would draw materials for the affiliated libraries. In drafting away these supernumeraries from the central stock the interest of the parent institution must of course be held paramount. Let the Museum retain, not only every work, but every edition of a work, which possesses any special value, or to which scholars and students are ever likely to refer. There will be plenty still for the district establishments. Of Shakspeare, for example, copies of each edition claiming any distinctive features, or enriched with exclusive annotations—from the original quarto to the splendid Halliwell edition now in course of publication—must be kept on the Museum shelves. But among the twenty-nine separate editions of his collected works, to say nothing of five times as many copies of particular plays and poems, there will be an ample surplus to furnish forth now and then these branch libraries with a very sufficient stock of Shakspearean literature. Other standard works, in poetry and prose, are hoarded up in the Museum library in nearly equal redundancy. It is not easy in the present chaotic state of the catalogues to discover the real extent of its rules, but a slight investigation has shown us that there exist no fewer than twenty-seven distinct editions, or copies, of Milton's poetical works; twenty-nine of the "Paradise Lost," in a separate form; and nearly as many more of the "Paradise Regained," "Comus," and "Samson Agonistes." Of Pope there are twenty-six copies bearing the title of "Collected Poetical Works;"

* The New Testament does not warrant the introduction of this incident; but I have allowed it to take its place in these lines—which are descriptive of the picture illustrations to the New Testament—because it is a symbolical incident which has been introduced into representations of the Nativity, by the generality of artists, both ancient and modern. It will be observed in the accompanying engraving.

though some of these are of early dates, and therefore imperfect as collections. The detached poems, "Rape of the Lock," "Essays on Man," and "Translations of Homer," are presented in numerous forms that we did not attempt to count them. Among the list of other British poets there are twenty copies of Dryden's Works, four of Byron, and four of Shelley; besides, in all cases, numberless copies of the separate poems, plays, &c., of each author. With histories the Museum library is even more abundantly supplied. The entries under that title fill whole volumes in the several catalogues. Of English histories alone there are many hundreds. Again we say, let the Museum have the pick and choice of the whole selection. Let a copy of every history, a distinctive edition of every history, be retained in its bookcases, so that no future writer or student can fail to obtain any work which he may wish to consult. Even then there will be more than enough left for the subsidiary establishments. We for instance, after a very imperfect search, that the national library at present contains eight copies of Gibbon, twelve of Hume, and Smollett, and even three of Henry. In general literature the selection may be estimated by instance of a single name. There are at least six copies of Johnson's "Lives of the Poets," five of his "Rasselas," and twelve of his own life by Boswell.

Books of reference must be selected with more scruple. These works are designed chiefly for occasional and special purposes, and none of them should be allowed to crowd the shelves of a national library. Now, in the Museum, we find no less than a hundred pages in the catalogues, numerous duplicates must be which can be spared without the slightest danger to the Museum collection. For instance, we find no less than fourteen copies of "Johnson's Dictionary." Even of the cyclopædias many are equally useless at present where they are. The seventh edition of the "Cyclopædia Britannica," among others, will be speedily superseded by the new and modernised issue now publishing by Messrs. Black. This work will then be deposited from its place of honour in the reading-room, and relegated to the distant shelf, where it will gather dust in company with its six predecessors. Yet this edition is still a magnificent work, and would prove most valuable in any library not furnished with its more elaborate successor.

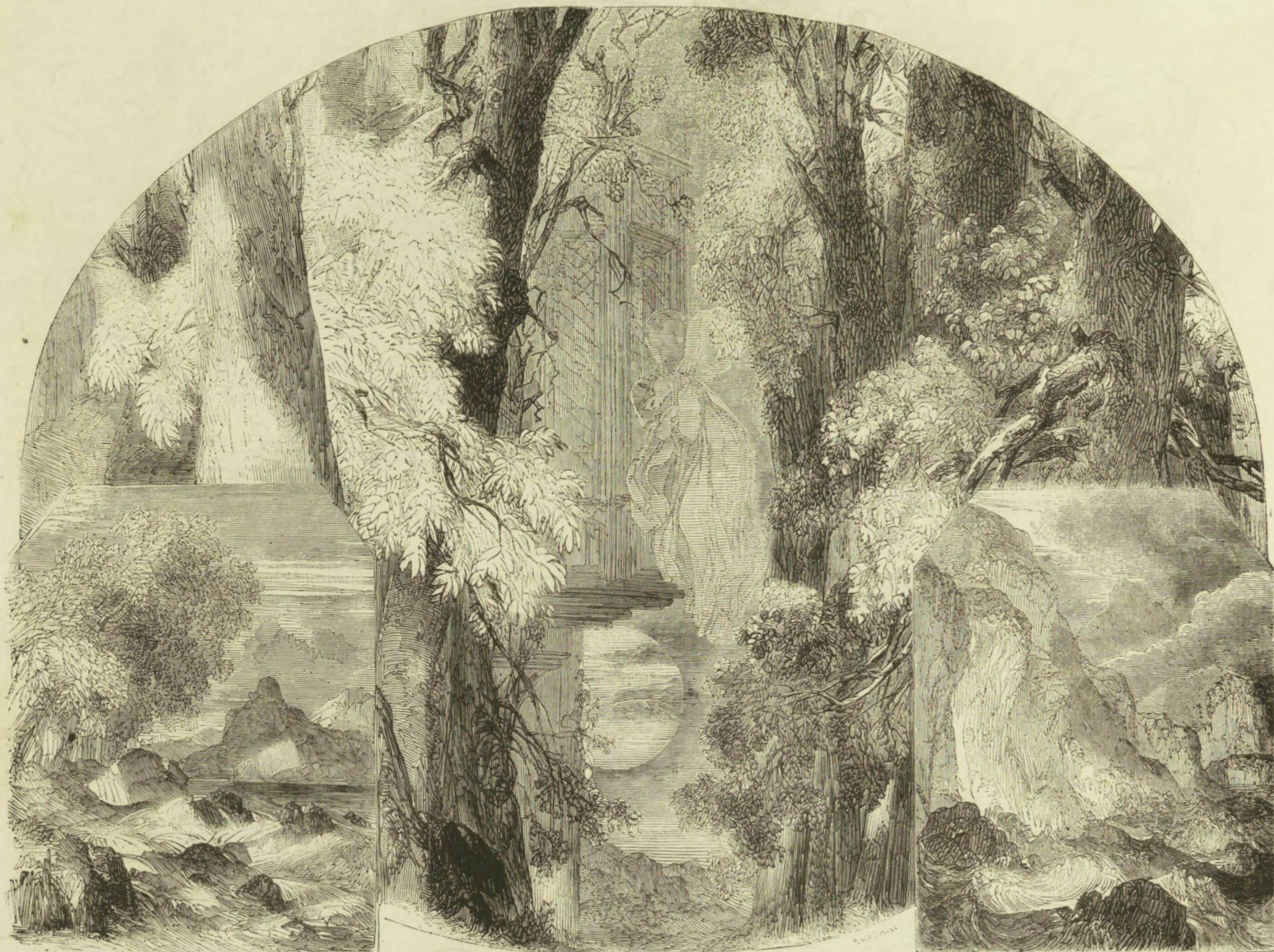
The great advantage attending the formation of the subsidiary libraries would consist in their fitness for evening use. Not counting any literary treasures in the shape of rare books or still manuscripts, there would be no need to maintain in them the precautions so essential to the Museum itself. Fire and gas might therefore be admissible, and the benefits of the institution be available to vast numbers of eager applicants who are now totally excluded from any such advantages. The results would, we are convinced, be found highly useful in every point of view. The experiment must no doubt receive the preliminary sanction of Parliament; but this, we believe, would not be withheld if any well-arranged programme were laid before the Legislature. While preparations are in progress for opening the new reading-room—involving, as they do, a considerable disturbance of existing arrangements—a favourable opportunity is presented for effecting those further changes which would be necessary in order to select and detach supernumerary volumes for the branch libraries. At all events, it may be remembered that the scheme comprises nothing but an experiment. The books are not lost. If the affiliated establishments do not receive public patronage, or in any way appear unworthy of maintenance, their contents can be returned to the parent stock, and everything resume its former condition. The proposition has the advantage that, whether successful or unsuccessful, it can be tested with little cost, and no risk whatever.

A MANUAL OF PHOTOGRAPHIC CHEMISTRY. By T. FREDERICK HARDWICK. Third Edition. John Churchill.—Photography may be spoken of as a sort of half-way house between science and art. It is a practical science in which qualifications of a double kind are required; for, as the taste of the artist is especially shown in the choice and arrangement of the subject, so the knowledge of the chemist is necessary in preparing and manipulating with the solutions employed. The work before us treats of the chemistry of the subject, and from the introductory remarks we gather that the author believes a knowledge of the theory of photography to be essential; although he deprecates that excessive minuteness in explaining non-essential points, sometimes adopted, but by which the reader is confused and entangled in a labyrinth of scientific details not really necessary to the successful practice of the art. He has attempted to avoid this error by selecting matters of fundamental interest, and enters fully upon them, leaving others of minor importance to be dealt with more summarily, or to be altogether omitted. The chemical changes produced by the lens's rays, and which form the basis of the photographic art, are first treated of; with the nature of the sensitive surfaces on which they act. That beautiful phenomenon, the development of a latent image, is next explained—when, at a certain stage of the process, a picture, before invisible, appears to rise up like a cloud from the surface of the photographic plate, and is evolved in the greatest perfection of detail. Afterwards, we are informed of the modes adopted for fixing the impression and rendering it indestructible by time and light. The photographic processes now in common use are somewhat numerous, but the principle of all is nearly identical. The author gives a short sketch of each, in which he indicates their respective merits; but in his directions for the practical carrying out of the art he confines himself to photography upon collodion. The collodion process, which was discovered by Mr. Archer, in 1850, is fast superseding the others. The manipulations are so simple and so readily performed that a mere tyro may produce the finest results; whilst its great rapidity enables the operator to secure portraits and copies of living objects which could not be obtained by a process requiring a longer exposure in the camera. Still, it must be allowed that until very lately the most annoying failures were occasionally experienced in taking photographs upon collodion, and the patient of the operator was often sorely vexed. The cause of this was, what gives the most exquisite sensibility and delicacy, involves the necessity of attending to a variety of little matters which may appear unimportant, but have a great influence upon the result. The author of the "Photographic Chemistry," availing himself of the labours of others, and adding facts derived from his own experience, gives the results in the form of a chapter devoted to a classification of these causes of failure. The evil is traced to its source, and directions are given for its removal. Collodion photographs are known as "positives" or "negatives," according as they represent the lights and shadows of the object correctly or reversed. Negatives are useless as works of art, but they are employed with advantage to produce multiplied positive copies of the original. This is ordinarily done by what is termed "Photographic printing," the negative being laid upon prepared sensitive paper and exposed to the light. The process is an easy one, and yields very pleasing pictures, but for several years there has been a difficulty in securing the permanency of the proofs, and the lovers of the art have been discouraged by their productions occasionally deteriorating and losing their original brilliancy. In the present edition of the "Photographic Chemistry" the author enters into this subject with enthusiasm, and warmly combats the notion which has lately arisen that paper photographs necessarily fade by time. At the request of the Council of the Photographic Society he has undertaken a series of chemical researches which have enabled him to demonstrate the true nature of the coloured deposit forming the picture, and the causes by which it is injuriously affected. He therefore asserts unhesitatingly that photographs are not necessarily unstable, and that, if properly prepared, according to simple directions given in the work, they may be preserved in portfolios or suspended in glazed frames without fear or injury. We find it stated in the preface that considerable pains have been taken in perfecting the index of this edition; the importance of this point in a work intended for reference cannot be overestimated, inasmuch as many who devote themselves to photography as a recreation, have not always the time nor the inclination to wade through many pages in order to obtain instruction. If they require an explanation of a reaction or a description of the properties of a chemical substance, it is a great convenience to be able at once to turn to the page which contains the desired information. We see that this manual has now reached a third edition within two years. This proves how large is the public now interested in the photographic art, and how much a treatise of this nature was wanted. Mr. Hardwick deserves the thanks of art—both amateurs and professional men—for the immense amount of labour and research he must have bestowed on the improvement of this favourite pursuit; and even the purchasers of photographs are indebted to him for teaching every one the way to render these hitherto unstable pictures secure.



"THE ADORATION."—PAINTED BY RIBERA SPAGNOLETTA. (SEE PAGE 656.)

ENGLISH SONGS AND MELODIES



THE EOLIAN HARP.

POETRY BY CHARLES MACKAY.

Slow, and tranquilly.

AIR, "FAREWELL, MANCHESTER."

SYMPHONIES AND ACCOMPANIMENTS BY SIR H. R. BISHOP.

First system of musical notation for the piano accompaniment. It consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in 2/4 time. The melody begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes a crescendo (*cres.*) marking.

Second system of musical notation, including the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is on a single staff with lyrics: "Thro' the sum-mer night Comes a me-lan-cho-ly sprite, Fit-ful as the light". The piano accompaniment is on two staves, starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic.

Third system of musical notation, including the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line continues with lyrics: "On the bil-lowy seas;— At my win-dow lone It a-wakes a mourn-ful tone,". The piano accompaniment is on two staves, ending with a crescendo (*cres.*) marking.



Ri - sing, fall - ing, fail - ing, in sweet me - lo - dies. Tell me, why dost

hor - row Such a voice of sor - row, Spi - rit at my case - ment moan - ing

'mid the trees?

slower *tempo primo*

pp *mf* *cres.* *f* *p*

I.
THROUGH the summer night
Comes a melancholy sprite,
Fitful as the light
On the billowy seas;—
At my window lone
It awakes a mournful tone,
Rising, falling, failing, in sweet melodies.
Tell me, why dost borrow
Such a voice of sorrow,
Spirit at my casement moaning 'mid the trees?

II.
Wherefore seek to know?
Forests bend and rivers flow,
Ever as if woe
Mingled in their song;
Nature's voice appears
As if, touch'd by human tears,
'Twere a dirge of pity for our human wrong;
Ocean moans for ever,
Sadly falls the river,
And the vagrant storms the notes of grief prolong.

III.
Sigh, O summer air;
Music never spoke despair;
And thy sighs declare
Comfort 'mid our pain.
Joy abides in grief—
Hidden in the flower and leaf
Are the autumn treasures, fruit and golden grain:
Sing, O wind of summer,
Sweet uncertain comer—
Sympathy for sorrow hallows all the strain.

"FAREWELL, MANCHESTER."—This beautiful air was composed in the early part of the last century by the Rev. William Felton, prebendary of Hereford. It was commonly called "Felton's Gavot," and is said to have been performed as a march when Charles Stuart's army quitted Manchester in the year 1745. At about that period some words were written to it, entitled "A Song made on the Peace," and beginning "Fill, fill, fill the glass;" a printed copy of which, with the music, is now in the British Museum. Felton was also the composer of several organ and harpsichord concertos, which were formerly much admired; and "Felton's Ground," a musical composition so called, was in such high repute as to be introduced into an Italian opera brought out in London, 1762.—H. R. B.

MIRIAM FOSTER.

On a bright morning a child is seen running rapidly along the banks of a river. Deftly she flies along, her curly auburn tresses floating from under the coarse straw hat which preserves her clear complexion from the influence of the sun's rays. Now she runs close to the water's edge; then a little higher amidst the willows and the brambles; until, turning into a thicket, she sits herself on the root of a tree and laughs a low melodious laugh. There is something quaint and odd about the little girl. She does not appear to be running from sheer pleasure. Her features, calm and somewhat melancholy when the laugh is over, do not betoken a mind that admires running alone as an abstract pastime. It is evidently not from the fullness of her heart that she runs laughing that low melodious laugh—a laugh, after all, not that of a child, and barely in harmony with the singing of the birds, the murmurs of the stream, the rays of sun which she avoids, and all the view of smiling nature spread around. And the dress of the child is likewise quaintly assorted. It would be difficult to tell from it to what class of life she belongs. The hat is coarse and dirty enough. The frock is dull and dowdy enough—a calico print, the fastness of whose colours had long been outstripped by time. But a very pretty silk apron interposes to secure it from further soiling. Neat little socks and shoes encase the little feet; and the small hands are protected by gloves from the sun, to all appearance studiously withheld from the cuticle of this quaint child.

It would, indeed, be difficult to say what this child was by looking at her. At moments she scarcely seemed earthly. A wild flash would come across her eye as she sat at the root of that old tree, grubbing away with a broken branch, and drawing squares and triangles around her, intersecting circles by rhomboids, and engaged in similar pursuits, which appeared allied to something evil. A flush would come across her cheek as she at times suspended her employment, as though to listen for some one who was to come through the brushwood; and at times she would repeat the low melodious laugh which to an observant mind, would have given the impression of art rather than of nature.

Of a sudden she sprang upon her feet, and, standing on the root, she shook back her curls, and gazed through the brushwood to the river. Then she pointed with her hand, as though indicating to a bystander some unwonted object; and with that low, studied, melodious, but penetrating, voice she began a recitation, pronouncing her words slowly at first, but gradually rousing herself to animation until she spoke out vehemently and wildly like a little Pythoness. She was reciting a passage from the Psalms.

She stopped all of a sudden. Her eye had detected the form of some one coming in the distance, and she resumed her seat and her former occupation.

A boy approached her, older and taller than herself, and dressed as the son of one well to do in the world. She received him with a laugh.

"So you have found me at last?" she asked.

"Yes, Miriam. I should have been sooner here but I saw your father, who told me he had seen you go another way, and who bade me, if I found you, bring you home to him."

"Go and tell him I shall return soon."

"Will you not come with me, Miriam?"

The answer was given slowly and measured: "Go and tell him I will return soon."

"Not with me, dear Miriam?"

"Go! Go!"

And the boy turned away mournfully, lingering until he saw that there was no sign of yielding in the child's countenance.

He was scarcely out of sight, when she that was called Miriam, laughed again, as one glad to have seen proof that her power was triumphant; and breaking through the brambles, she ran deftly, as she had come, to find her home.

Myles Wellwood walked sadly away from the thicket. Once more had he been made the object of the caprice of that weird child, and once more when he had hoped to see her, to hear her laugh, and to pour his confidence into her ear, had the whole current of his being been suddenly chilled with that cold sickening feeling which takes possession of a heart meeting with mockery from those for whom it is filled with loving kindness and sympathy.

And it was strange that Miriam thus trifled with the feelings of her boy-admirer.

There were not many in that remote moorland village where they lived who showed her too much kindness. Far removed from the peasants and tradesmen, she and her father knew none else. Since she had come as a baby to the village—to that cottage and garden yonder on the brow of the hill—they had seen no neighbours, they had received no letters, they had never appeared in the church or the chapel. The clergyman shook his head sorrowfully as he passed her. The Wesleyan preacher mentioned her in his discourses as a vessel of wrath, and by that name was she habitually spoken of amongst the members of his persuasion. The clerk of the parish, third amongst the village authorities, who was also schoolmaster, envied her information as he shook his head after the manner of his master, and spread reports that she was not a Christian, and that her learning was not attained by natural means; while one and all took their children from her with that feeling which, in a Roman Catholic, would have found a vent in the sign of the cross. But a poor workhouse maid, whom they had taken as their only attendant, declared that Mr. Foster and his daughter were "larned as Christians;" and that none in the village, not even the Parson and the Methody, knew and studied their Bible so well as that ostracised pair.

"It was almost their sole occupation," said the maid, "was reading their Bible." Whenever they were together they were reading it, or Miriam was reading it, except at such times when they together pored over thick tomes filled with characters such as she had never seen nor heard of, or when they retired to a garret filled with strange machines, bars, and pulleys, and wheels, retorts and chemical instruments, whence at night she heard strange sounds, such as the flapping of wings, the clank of irons, and the splash or hiss of water, and at times the notes of a soft plaintive music and voices chanting some melancholy canticle. As she first emerged from infancy the child had sought the company of her fellows. But soon she learnt to live alone. Soon did she learn the lesson that all taught her, that solitude was to be her portion. Yet, conscious of her power, she loved to battle with the world; to struggle for the mastery was her excitement, as some love to turn the angry ocean to their purposes, or curb and spur and goad a mettled steed that they may subdue its violence and control its fury. As she would pass a knot of those who let her pass without a greeting or a salutation, her low laugh, full of scorn and withering contempt, would rouse their vulgar passions, while a proud flash from her dark eye repressed insolence and forestalled retort.

Myles Wellwood alone, of all the neighbours, sought for her society. His father, the village doctor, despised the superstition of his neighbours and the occupations of his son. Warily plodding from house to house in the wild district, he little minded the vague yearnings

of his child for a companion, nor the spirit that induced him to court the society of Miriam, and to love the mystery that enshrouded the shunned and wayward being. Thus the two grew up together. Myles loved the little maiden, and Miriam loved him more than all the world, except her father. But this measure of her love was not great. The world had drawn forth but little fondness. But the two grew on together till the day at last came when Myles was to begin the life of man, to seek in distant towns for the bread of toil. In the dark thickets they pledged their love one to the other. He pressed her to his heart and bade her farewell.

Then from behind a tree comes the father of the maiden.

"Miriam."

"I hear, father!"

"For what is life worth living?" he asks. "Not for love!"

"For what?" answers the girl, with her bitter laugh of scorn.

"For power!"

"Father! I am ready!"

That night the cottage is forsaken, and the villagers have seen that strange pair for the last time.

A city stands upon the side of a dark sluggish river. From high chimneys gushes dark smoke, and the faces of the townsmen are black, begrimed, and haggard as of those who toil—toil and labour for gold—under hard taskmasters. Some have a wild look under their shaggy hair. They curse their children, strike their wives; and harsh, hard words resound through the streets of this city where there lives little love but the love of money. All seem to have sold themselves to that ill demon, and in return he has given them but one gift—eagerness. There they are jostling one another; eager to get home, eager to walk out, eager to eat and drink, eager to live, eager to die, eager to leave the old, eager to find the new; looking for short cuts to everything—to wealth, to happiness—if possible to salvation.

Eating a humble meal at a bench outside an inn sits a weary traveller. Young he is, but seemingly full of care—a care not such as that of those around him, but care produced from weary anxious thought, from some mental emotion suppressed or thwarted. He eats slowly and carelessly, as one who only eats to live. He says nothing to those around him. Nothing has an interest for him. He does not ask the meaning of the unwonted stir that reigns about him. One by one the windows of the houses are filled with eager faces, and crowds assemble beneath them gazing. Far down the street is a murmur that slowly and gradually grows louder, as though it approached the spot where the traveller is sitting. The street leads to the river. The murmurs grow louder; and, above all, a clear, melodious voice chants some solemn anthem. The traveller begins to feel an interest. He sits up, and brushing his rough locks from his forehead he listens. In the midst of the crowd a space is opened. A procession draws nearer. One by one, two by two, march the assistants, clad in white robes with fillets bound about their brows. In the midst of the fillet is a seal. One by one, two by two, the procession march on—slowly, slowly as those conscious that theirs is a sacred employment. Again those seraphic accents ring through the air. The traveller stands upon the bench, and gazes more earnestly than any other. At length many men, clad in white, march slowly before him, bearing on their shoulders a wooden dais. Before them walks one with a loose robe girded about his loins, his feet in sandals, and a long white beard that falls upon his bosom.

He cries like a prophet—"Behold she cometh! the holy, the blessed! The might of the foe doth not prevail against her. She hath power over serpents. The winds of heaven obey her. Fire doth not harm her, and she walketh on the waves of the sea."

And on the dais stands one most beautiful. Clad likewise in white, her auburn ringlets pour down around her. Enormous serpents are sleeping by her side, and ever and anon she takes from a furnace red glowing steel, and grasps it in her unscathed hand, and her eyes flash almost as the burning metal.

And once again she raises up her voice—

Oh! come to me both high and lowly!

Oh! come ye sad and sore oppressed,

For I am holy—I am holy!

Oh! come to me and seek your rest;

Oh! come to me ye seal'd and blest,

For I am holy.

And the crowds around respond

For she is holy.

With a heaving breast the traveller gazes on the vision. He waits to catch one glimpse from that proud dark eye. At length it is turned towards him; but its glance does not change, neither does the colour on that fair cheek tremble.

"Oh, Miriam! Miriam!" cries he, falling heavily to the ground. And the crowd passes on without notice; for they see in the prostrate man only a fresh convert.

Ere many minutes he rises from his swoon and follows slowly. A fillet is bound about his brows. It has been placed there by one of the disciples. The crowds are ranged along the margins of the stream. It is wide—wider than usual—for the rains have swollen it beyond its limits. The disciples are to see the last, the crowning miracle. They gaze eagerly. Many have believed already. Many are willing to believe. All look with anxiety to the marvel. Some that their faith may be strengthened—others that it may be established.

"Behold, she walketh on the waters!" cries the High Priest.

"For she is holy," chants the assembly.

The maiden is borne to a skiff that swings near the shore. There is a light in her eye—a proud conscious flash as though confident in her powers. Pushed from the shore, she guides her little bark to the centre of the stream. Then she stops, and once more that melody is heard, and from either bank resounds the solemn chorus. She places both her feet upon the surface, and stands holding for a moment by the boat. Then she loosens her hold, and the boat floats alone down the stream. She stands alone upon the waters, and the chorus of that rough song is shouted exultingly. It is but for a moment. She totters as she sings—she sinks—those white arms, those long tresses, are but for a moment visible, and the fair form of the Prophetess is seen no more.

Pale, pale and ghastly is the face of the Priest as he watches the fearful climax.

"My child! my child!" he cries, as he tosses his hands wildly about him, preparing to follow her to the flood.

But a still more terrible vengeance awaits him. A dull sound rises from the crowd. Then, with savage yells and curses, they fall upon him, and the moment is his last. None know who dealt to him the mortal blow, and none know where he lieth.

In the simple parlour of a country cottage a village surgeon tells a story to his children. Some are gathered round his knees, and some cling in fear to their mother. He tells them a story of a mad enthusiast impostor, who sacrificed his wife to his dark designs, and who taught his infant daughter deeply-laid deception. He tells them how Miriam Foster, the Prophetess, was drowned while attempting to impose on a populace with mechanism cunningly devised and long practised; and how her father was torn to pieces by the populace, savage at the fraud. But he does not tell them how, in her youth, Miriam Foster had plighted her troth; nor the struggles and wanderings of her lover.

The name of the village surgeon is Myles Wellwood.

FINE ARTS.

THE WRECK OF THE "MINOTAUR." Engraved by BARLOW, after TURNER. Graves and Co.

We are not of those who place Turner above Claude and Gaspar Dughet; but that he is the first landscape-painter of the English school, and stands on a pedestal considerably higher than those of the Wilsons and Gainsboroughs, appears to us indisputable. We have always considered the "Wreck of the *Minotaur*" as one of Turner's masterpieces. It is of his early and truthful period. He is not the mere observer of external nature, but the narrative painter of one of the most moving accidents of flood that history records or imagination conceives. A huge leviathan of war, crowded with soldiers and sailors—men and women—have gunwale over in a terrific storm, with insufficient means of escape, is one of the most awful events of human existence. How striking is the interrogative saying, "What is so real as imagination?" Actual death itself has not half the horror of the prolonged imminence of it.

None but a painter of some daring and confidence could attempt such a subject; and the result is a picture that not only strikes at first by its forcible action, but stands the minutest examination of its finely and carefully done details. The dismasted ship hove down by the force of the tempest, the boiling surf, the yachts, pinnaces, and long-boats disobeyed by sails and rudders, and bearing the survivors as fate, winds, and waves may best determine; and the wind-reft clouds that open as much daylight as makes the gloom and destruction visible, are all given with the full power of this noble British master; and the engraving of Mr. Barlow does every justice to the picture, which is in the collection of the Earl of Yarborough. The late Earl, who acquired the picture, was many years identified with our existence as a maritime nation—having, more than any other man of his time, encouraged the healthful, innocent, and bracing recreation of yachting. The present Earl has, with the greatest liberality, given the engraved plate to the Artists' General Benevolent Institution, one of the best-managed charities in this empire. The Council of the Institution have appointed Messrs. Graves the publishers; and we can conscientiously aver that both subject and engraving are of the highest class.

PORTRAIT OF SIR HENRY FITZROY. By BUCKNER. Engraved by BELLIN. Graves and Co.

The extraordinary development of our Australian Colonies, now no longer penal, is perhaps the most remarkable phenomenon of the British Empire in the nineteenth century. Each century of the history of our wonderful isle seems to have its special business. The sixteenth had its Reformation; the seventeenth, the definitive settlement of our form of Government; the eighteenth, the acquisition of India, and the utilisation of steam and other mechanisms for gigantic industrial purposes; and now, the peopling, culture, and mining of Australia certainly does look like the best affair that we have on hand.

To deal with a new community where nothing is as yet in grooves, and everything is to create, arrange, and modify—nay, when often wisdom counsels restraint of the impetuous, a man of sound practical sense and conciliatory tact is requisite; and to this class belongs the distinguished officer whose portrait has been painted by Mr. Buckner, who has skilfully introduced accessories representative of Sir Henry's double function of military officer and civilian administrator. The engraving by Mr. Bellin is of a high class. The left hand is not quite to our mind—but this is, perhaps, not solely the engraver's fault; the cloth tints have both unity and delicacy.

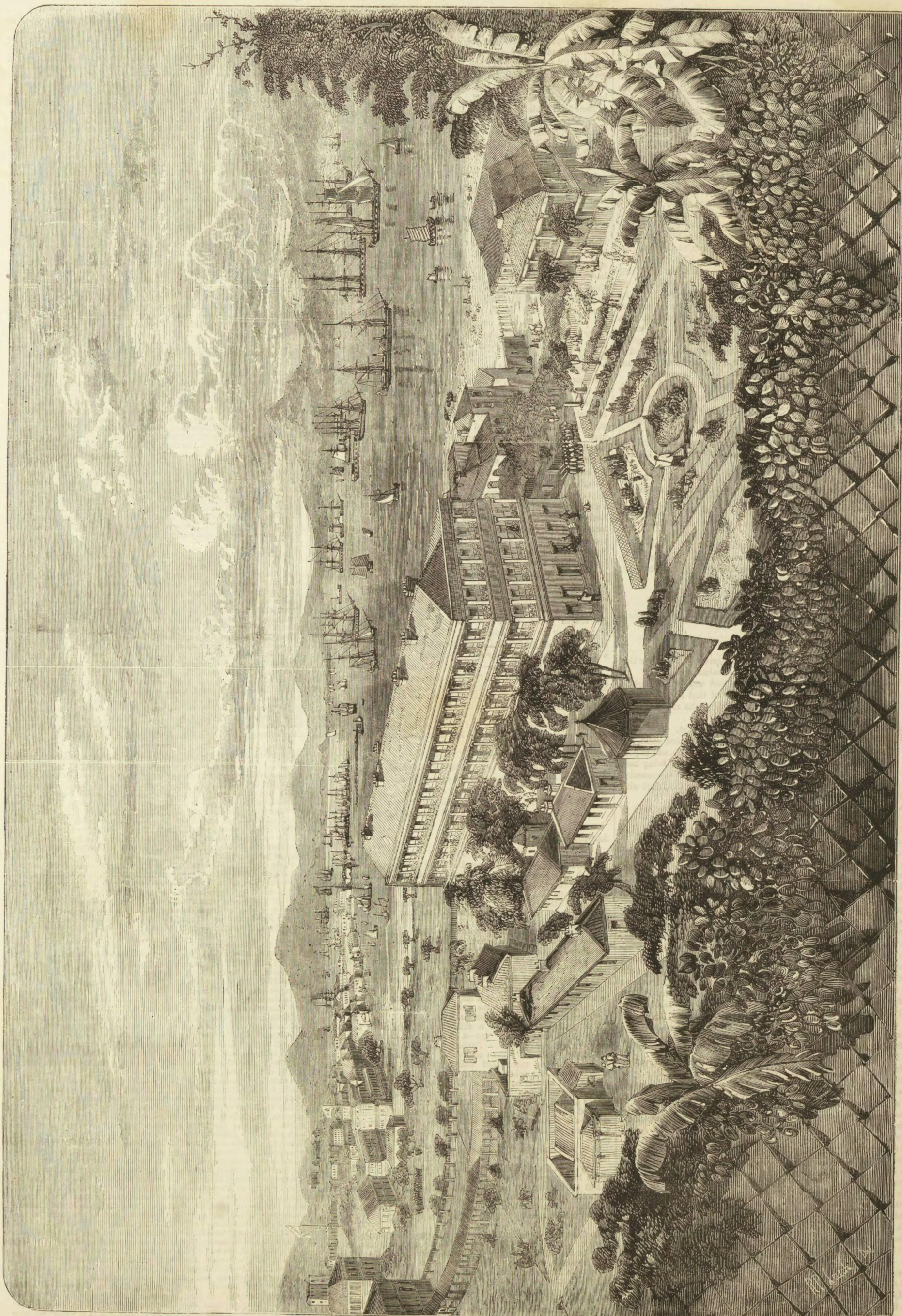
THE CHALK WAGGONER IN THE LIMOUSIN. Engraved by GOODALL, after ROSA BONHEUR. Gambart and Co.

Had Rosa Bonheur been an Englishwoman, it is probable that, like our Landseers and Ansdells, she would have dealt more frequently with the deer-walk and the lawns and parks of our gentry, and with their animals of vinery. In France the existence of grand châteaux ceased at the Revolution, and has never been fully restored. The division and subdivision of the land has created a large class of proprietors and cultivators, who have little in common with our country gentry. But if the hall has not its bony hunters for the men and sleek pads for the women, agriculture has improving breeds of cattle, which astonish our visitors, and its vigorous Norman and Limousin breeds of draught-horses, that attract attention by the rotundity of their barrel, the spirit of the eye and nostril, the sinewy vigour of the action, and their robustous contour—not the equine Apollo Belvedere, but the Farnese Hercules in all his muscle. For driving team—whether afield in Normandy, or on the parched chalky sun-roasted roads of the central parts of France—who can approach Rosa Bonheur? We have been much pleased with this engraving; the animals are "all alive and kicking," the waggoner truth itself, and the shadows given with all the accuracy of Mr. Goodall's "burin."

PANORAMA OF JERSEY. Lithographed by DAY, after a Design by the late GEORGE WILLIS, Royal Artillery.

Guienne, Gascogne, the pleasant Bacchanalian vale of the Garonne, and great part of the South of France, once belonged to the Kings of England; but all these have long since gone, including even the long-debated, and finally-sold Dunkirk; and it certainly was high time to give up the title of King of "France," in addition to those of England, Scotland, and Ireland, when all we could show of "La Belle France," were a few Channel islands. Jersey is now celebrated for its refugees, those self-elected benefactors of the human race, who edit that rare journal, *L'Homme*; but so great are the prejudices of John Bull in favour of Christianity and Monarchy that we have never seen a single copy of the journal in a public reading-room in this country. St. Heliers is an increasing place, fringed with formidable batteries, its centre filled up with an old French town, and its landward suburbs dotted with our metropolitan "semi-detached" boxes of the proper Brixton-Hoxton pattern. Panoramic views, when coloured, are the best for giving us an accurate notion of a strange place; and this one of Jersey, with its rocks, its forts, its expanse of house-tops and distant sea, is instructive and agreeable.

INVENTORIUM SEPULCHRALE: An Account of some Antiquities dug up at Gilton, Kingston, Sibbertswold, Barfriston, Beakesbourne, Chatham, and Crundale, in the County of Kent, from A.D. 1757 to A.D. 1773. By the Rev. BRYAN FAUSSETT, of Heppington. Edited, from the original Manuscript in the possession of Joseph Mayer, Esq., with Notes and Introduction, by CHARLES ROACH SMITH, Author of "Collectanea Antiqua," &c. Printed for the Subscribers only. 4to.—So much has been said, both in our own columns and elsewhere, on the now-celebrated collection of Anglo-Saxon Antiquities known as the Faussett Collection, that it is no longer necessary to give any detailed account of it in introducing to our readers the valuable volume which bears the above title. It is already well known that this collection was purchased somewhat more than two years ago by Mr. Joseph Mayer, of Liverpool, and that one portion of the purchase consisted of the autograph journal of Bryan Faussett's discoveries, forming six quarto volumes of manuscript. Mr. Mayer, with the public spirit and antiquarian zeal of which he has given so many examples, saw immediately the value of this journal, and resolved to publish it at his own expense, for which purpose he placed it in the hands of Mr. C. Roach Smith, who may justly be considered as our first scholar in the archaeology of Anglo-Saxon paganism. The journal is a simple description, in the order in which they were found, of every grave that was opened by Bryan Faussett, and of its contents, and is extremely valuable as a collection of materials for the antiquary and historian. Mr. Smith has edited it carefully from the manuscript, and has added illustrative notes of his own. He has placed at the head of it an introductory essay on Anglo-Saxon antiquities, treating of them first generally, and in the sequel particularly under their several heads of personal ornaments, toilet apparatus, weapons, implements and utensils, scales and weights, glass, pottery, and coins, and on the localities and ethnological classification of these antiquities. Both the text and the introduction are illustrated with numerous wood-cuts, but the objects of the Faussett Collection themselves are engraved in a series of twenty plates, placed at the end of the volume. These plates, many of which are exquisitely coloured, deserve, it must be acknowledged, to rank with the most beautiful specimens of antiquarian drawing and engraving that we have ever seen, and do great credit to Mr. Fairholt, by whom they were etched. An appendix, containing biographical notice of Bryan Faussett, and selections from his correspondence with the antiquary Douglas (the author of the "*Nenia Britannica*"), and well-classified tables and indexes, complete the volume, which is a most valuable contribution to antiquarian literature, and is very appropriately dedicated to Mr. Mayer, a very excellent portrait of whom is given as the frontispiece.



THE HARBOUR OF HONG-KONG.—FROM AN ORIGINAL SKETCH.